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THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF
MUNTANER

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

TAKEN BY
LADY GOODENOUGH

*From her translation of THE CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER,
published by the Hakluyt Society*

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY HUGH CHESTERMAN



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FOREWORD

RAMON MUNTANER, a valiant Spanish knight, was an experienced soldier. He fought in more than thirty battles by land and sea and bore the scars of many wounds. He was one of the chiefs of the Catalan Company, which, summoned by the Emperor Andronicus II., drove the Turks from the gates of Constantinople in the year 1303.

CO. SCHOOLS

In Muntaner's time Spain was divided into a number of kingdoms, Christian and Moorish. The two principal Christian kingdoms, Castile and Aragon, gradually increased their territories. A royal marriage gave Catalonia to Aragon, and after the victories of Jaime I. over the Moors, the King of Aragon ruled also over the Kingdom of Valencia.

When Muntaner could no longer take part in the incessant wars of Spain, he retired to his country house in Valencia and there wrote his Chronicle.

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GLOSSARY

Almugavars = a rough, irregular soldiery.

En = the Catalan word for " Sir."

Turcoples = the prisoners of war of the Turks made
to fight in their armies.

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

CHAPTER I

HOW THE LORD KING EN JAIME FOUGHT THE SARACENS AND TOOK MUCH TERRITORY FROM THEM AND HOW THE LORD INFANTE EN PEDRO WAS KING AFTER THE LORD KING EN JAIME HAD DIED AND HOW HE RESOLVED TO TAKE THE KINGDOM OF SICILY FROM THE USURPER KING CHARLES.

EVERYONE must hold it to be the truth that, to him who acts, thinks, and speaks well, God gives good guerdon, and therefore it is right that I, Ramon Muntaner, give great thanks to God for His favour and grace, and for my escape from many perils I have been in, such as thirty-two battles on sea and land in which I have been, as well as in many prisons and torments in wars in which I have been, and many persecutions.

And first I shall speak of the Most High Lord En Jaime, by the grace of God King of Aragon.

Before King Jaime was twenty years old he conquered the Kingdom of Mallorca, which he took from the Saracens with much trouble.

The other islands surrendered and the Lord King returned to Aragon, and there also he fought the Saracens and took many towns and castles from

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

them until he had conquered the whole of the Kingdom of Valencia.

And then he went to visit his dominions and territories and went hunting and disporting and making merry. But when he was thus visiting his dominions he fell ill, and the Saracens of Granada, who were at war with him, came to know of it, and more than a thousand men on horseback and many men afoot entered the kingdom. When the Lord King, being in his bed, knew this, he cried at once: "Bring me my horse and prepare my arms; I will go out against the traitorous Saracens who imagine that I am dead. Do not let them imagine it, for rather will I destroy them all." And his anger against them was so great that, in his wrath, he tried to sit up in his bed, but he could not. But at once he said: "As I cannot get up, let my banner go out and let me be carried in a litter until I reach the insolent Moors, for I think that when I am there and they see the litter in which I am being carried, we shall at once defeat them."

As he commanded, so it was done; but before he reached them the Infante Pedro, his son, had hastened and attacked them, and had attacked so vigorously amongst them that he defeated them. Yet he lost two horses; twice two of his knights dismounted and gave him their horses, and he mounted and they remained on foot. And so all the Saracens that day were killed or taken prisoners.

The King was carried to his palace in the city of Valencia, and there, six days before the exit of

THE CORONATION OF CHARLES

July of the year 1276, the Lord King En Jaime departed this life. With great weeping and lamentation they carried his body to the monastery of Poblet, and with great processions and many orisons he was buried.

After the Lord King En Jaime had passed away his eldest son, the Infante En Pedro, was crowned King of Aragon, and his other son, the Infante En Jaime, was crowned King of Mallorca, and Queen Constanza was crowned with King En Pedro, her husband.

Queen Constanza was the daughter of King Manfred of Sicily. Discord had arisen between that noble King and the Pope, and the Pope had issued a sentence of excommunication against King Manfred and urged all Christian kings of the world to wage war against King Manfred and wrest his dominions from him.

So Count Charles of Anjou, who was the brother of the King of France, had five galleys equipped and went to Rome to the Pope, and told the Pope he was ready to fight King Manfred and take Sicily from him. The Pope had great joy at this; he crowned him king, and so King Charles returned to Marseilles to collect a great force and march against King Manfred.

When King Manfred knew that King Charles was marching against him, he got ready and went to meet him with all his forces at the entrance of his kingdom, and they both engaged in battle very eagerly. Nothing could daunt King Manfred;

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

rather he attacked valiantly where he saw the banner of King Charles. At the spot in which the two kings were the battle was most cruel and furious, and it lasted from morning until night. And King Manfred was there killed; and his followers, who saw night approach and could not find King Manfred, like discomfited men, fled each to his country. And so King Charles took the kingdom; he was lord, after this battle, of all the country over which King Manfred had reigned.

King Pedro of Aragon, when he heard of the great battles and victories that King Charles had won, was greatly displeased and angry, because of his great love for the Queen, his wife, and because of his sons, whom he loved much; for he bethought him that they should have the kingdom after King Manfred. Wherefore he decided that he could never be happy until he had taken revenge.

King Charles established his government in Sicily. He appointed officers throughout the island who did and said nothing but what was evil and insolent. They acted so that it was a wonder that the Sicilians did not cut the Frenchmen's throats rather than bear with their treatment of them. Amongst other misdeeds this happened at Easter time:

There is a church in Palermo to which, at Easter, all the city goes. And the French sergeants had gone out and met ladies of Palermo who were accompanied by some youths of good birth who were kinsmen of theirs. The sergeants insulted the ladies and they beat with ox-whips men and

SICILY REBELS

ladies who were trying to get away. A great clamour arose; and the hearts of those who saw the outrage were inflamed with anger, and they cried: " Kill them ! Kill them ! " As this cry was raised they stoned all these sergeants to death.

Then they went about the city of Palermo, men and women, shouting: " Death to the French ! " Their cry went through every place in Sicily, and wherever their cry was raised there they killed all the French; all Sicily rebelled against King Charles.

When King Charles, who was at Naples, knew this damage he had received, he collected great hosts and came to besiege the city of Messina by land and sea. He came with fifteen thousand horsemen and with countless men afoot and with a hundred galleys.

CHAPTER II

HOW KING EN PEDRO FITTED OUT A GREAT EXPEDITION TO
GO TO TUNIS.

NOW I must let King Charles be, who is besieging Messina, and I must speak to you of the city of Tunis and of what happened to it.

At that time Mirabosecri was King of Tunis, and Bugron, his brother, was Lord of Constantine. Mirabosecri wanted to take Constantine, and Bugron thought he would not be able to defend himself, unless it were by the hand of the Lord King of Aragon. He sent messengers to King Pedro, and the messengers were two Saracen knights. They delivered their message so secretly that no man on earth knew anything about it except the Lord King.

King Pedro proceeded at once to have ships built of every sort; all along the coast he had great vessels built and great preparations made for all that is required for a lord's voyage. All the people of his dominions wondered at the great preparations that were being made. So great was the work, the fame of it spread throughout the world.

The Lord King of Mallorca came to the Lord King of Aragon and prayed him to tell him what he

DEATH OF KING ALFONSO

intended to do, and said that, if it pleased him, he would go with him anywhere with all his forces.

King Pedro answered: " Brother, I do not wish you to come with me, but that you remain and undertake to guard and take care of Our country. And I also pray you, do not let it weigh on you that I do not tell you what I intend to do; for assuredly, Brother, if I discovered my heart to any person in the world I would discover it to you, but I do not intend to do it concerning this journey. And so I again pray you that you be not grieved."

And upon this the Lord King of Mallorca, though grieved, did not press him any more. And likewise the King of Castile and his son, the Infante En Sancho, acted in the same way, and King Pedro made them the same answer he had made to his brother. Soon after King Alfonso of Castile died, and the Lord Infante Sancho became King of Castile.

The Pope also sent to say he begged King Pedro to tell him what he intended to do, and afterwards there likewise came messengers from the King of France and from the King of England, and from other princes of the world, and all returned with one answer, the same for the Pope as for kings and counts.

But of the Saracens I need not speak; each Saracen king feared that it was against him that the King of Aragon was going to march. So that it was the greatest marvel of the world to see all the light-houses and watch-towers that were erected all over Barbary. The men of the King of Granada said

to him: "Lord, how is it that you do not guard Vera and Almeria and Monecha and Malaga? Assuredly the King of Aragon will fall upon you."

But the King of Granada answered them: "Foolish men, what are you saying? Know you not that the King of Aragon has concluded a truce with Us for five years, and do you fear that he will break his promise? Have no fear, but be sure that he is of so lofty a mind and heart that for nothing in the world would he fail in anything he has promised."

The Lord King went about unceasingly hastening on all the work that was being done for him, and when it was finished he came and pitched his tents at Port Fangos, where all the shipping was, and ordered all to embark.

And the Lord King also embarked, and within two days all were on board. They sailed from Port Fangos in the month of May of the year of Our Lord 1282. There were more than a hundred and fifty sail.

CHAPTER III

HOW THE LORD KING CAME TO TUNIS AND PITCHED HIS TENTS
AT COLLO AND OF THE GREAT FIGHT AT THE HILL OF
STRIFE AND HOW ARMED BARQUES CAME TO ENTREAT
THE LORD KING TO SUCCOUR THE SICILIANS AND BE THEIR
KING AND HOW HE WENT TO SICILY.

WHEN they came to Collo, which is the port for the city of Constantine, they landed. But the inhabitants of Collo had fled, so that they only found a few. However, they landed the horses there and all descended on shore. And when all had landed the Lord King asked some Saracens he had taken prisoners for news. And they recounted to him what had happened to Bugron, how when the Saracens knew that he had called King Pedro to his aid they had risen against him and had cut off his head, whereat the Lord King was much displeased. However, as he had come he resolved that the expedition should be completed and began at once to make a wall of stakes with ropes passed through rings, and this wall surrounded all the host and the town.

Thirty thousand Saracen horsemen collected around, and so many men afoot that you might have seen the country and the mountains covered with them. Before a month had passed there had come more than a hundred thousand horsemen,

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

and men afoot without number. And the Count of Pallars erected a fort, partly of cob-walls, partly of wood, on a hill which is near the town of Collo, and from that place he, with many other men, attacked the Saracens every day, and they gave their fortified hill the name of Hill of Strife. There was great fighting every day and great deeds of valour done, and the Saracens were scattered so that not two remained together, and so many were massacred that it would be horrible to relate.

One day the Christians saw two armed barques, all sails set and with black pendants, come from the East, and they went direct to the fort and were beached. And if you ask me what they were and of what nation, I will tell you: they were Sicilian, of Palermo, and there came in them four knights and four citizens on a mission from the whole community of Sicily. When they had landed they came before the Lord King and threw themselves at his feet, weeping, and they were all dressed in black.

The Lord King drew back, and said: "What do you want? Who are you? And whence do you come?"

"Lord," said they, "we come from the unhappy land of Sicily to entreat your mercy, that out of your grace and charity you have pity on us and hasten to succour and deliver us. And, Lord, you should do this for the reason that the island of Sicily and all the kingdom do and should belong to my Lady the Queen, your wife, and, after her, to the Infantes, your sons, because they are of the



The armed barques with all sails set.

lineage of the virtuous King Manfred who was our legitimate Lord. Therefore, virtuous Lord, have mercy on us and go and take that kingdom and deliver the people."

And the Lord King, moved by pity, made them arise, and said to them: "Barons, you are welcome. It is the truth indeed that that kingdom should belong to the Queen, Our wife, and after her to Our children, and We have great displeasure in your tribulation. And so We have heard your message, and all We can do for your good We will do."

And the Lord King ordered good quarters and rations to be given to the messengers, of all they and their companions needed.

Four days had not gone by when two more armed barques came from Sicily with a similar message to that with which the first had come; and one of the barques, with two knights and two citizens, was from Messina, which was besieged by King Charles. And they likewise came dressed in black and with black sails and black pendants.

Every follower of the Lord King was full of pity, and all cried: "Lord, let us go to Sicily!"

The nobles also beseeched the King to go and deliver the Sicilians. And when he saw the readiness of his people, he said: "As it pleases you I have resolved to go, with the grace of God and in His keeping. Let us go to Sicily."

And next day the Lord King had everything put on board in good order, the horses and everything they had on land. When they had embarked,

THE ATTACK ON MESSINA

which was done within three days, the barques of Sicily left, to tell that they had seen the King of Aragon set sail.

The Lord King had as fine weather as could be wished, so that within a few days he landed at Trapani.

From Trapani he went to Palermo and at once prepared to go to succour Messina; and first he sent two thousand almugavars to enter that city by night. They went, each with his knapsack on his shoulder. Each man carried his bread in his knapsack, as the almugavars are accustomed to do, for, when they go on a raid, each man carries one loaf for each day, and no more; and with this bread and with some water and herbs they spend as much time as suits them. And so they went with good guides and reached the city in three days and entered it by night so secretly that they were not heard by the French host.

Next morning at dawn they prepared themselves for an attack on the host. But the people of Messina, who saw them badly clad and with leather gaiters on their legs and coarse leather soles on their feet, and nets on their heads, said: "Ah, God, what people are these who go naked and stripped, who wear nothing but a shirt and carry neither shield nor buckler? We cannot reckon on much succour if all the King of Aragon's followers are like these."

The almugavars who heard this murmuring, said: "This very day we will show what we are."

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And they made them open a gate and attacked the host in such manner that, before the host had gathered together, they made such carnage that it was marvellous. King Charles and his host thought the Lord King of Aragon was present in person. And then they brought all the rich booty they found into the city, and all returned to the city safe and sound and in security. And when the people of Messina saw the great marvels that these men had performed they showed them great honour and made entertainments for them. The same night they made illuminations and a feast, so that all the host was amazed and full of fear and grief.

That night there came a message to King Charles that the Lord King of Aragon was coming with all his forces, and all the forces of Sicily, by sea and by land, and that he was not forty leagues away. And King Charles, who was a very wise lord as well in feats of arms as in all other matters, thought he was not strong enough to fight the King of Aragon; therefore he decided to embark that night and go across to Reggio.

When King Pedro knew this he was greatly displeased, for he wished above all things to fight with King Charles, and for that satisfaction he was coming, he and his followers.

CHAPTER IV

HOW THE COUNT OF ALENÇON WAS KILLED BY THE ALMUGAVARS AND HOW KING CHARLES CHALLENGED THE LORD KING TO COMBAT IN THE LISTS AT BORDEAUX.

THE Count of Alençon, brother of the King of France, was at Catona with a great force of chivalry, ready to fight for King Charles.

One dark night the almugavars crossed over secretly from Messina, and at dawn, they went straight to the principal house, where the Count of Alençon was lodged. Certainly, they had hard work, for they found there full three hundred knights in armour on foot, who were the Count's guard. But they were cut down at once, and the Count was found putting on his armour with about ten knights who were at the door of the chamber and let no one enter.

The almugavars rushed up to the chamber, seeking the Count. But the knights cried: "Hold, hold, the Count of Alençon is here. Take him alive; he will give you more than fifteen thousand silver marks."

But they cried: "No prisoners! He must die in revenge for the deaths caused by King Charles."

The ten knights all died at the door of the chamber like good and valiant men, and the Count of Alençon was cut to pieces in the chamber.

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

When King Charles knew that the Count of Alençon and all the chiefs that were with him, and the knights and other followers were all dead, he was so full of grief that no man could describe it; and especially when he knew that foot-soldiers had done this deed. In the night, when others were sleeping, he was awake and considering well what he could do in the many perils in which he saw himself. And he thought thus:

“ If thou accusest King Pedro of having broken faith in coming into thy territory before he defied thee, he will have to justify himself, and he will have to clear himself by combat, either single combat, or ten against ten, or a hundred against a hundred. And when he shall have assented to this thou wilt accept the combat for a hundred against a hundred and wilt put it under the arbitrament of the King of England; and we will both agree to be at Bordeaux by a fixed day, within a short time.”

Having made this plan, he appointed very honourable messengers and sent them to the King of Aragon in Messina. And so the said messengers came to Messina, and when the full court was assembled, they said:

“ King of Aragon, King Charles sends us to you and says to you, through us, that your honour is tarnished by your entering his territory without defying him.”

And the Lord King of Aragon, moved by anger and indignation, answered and said: “ Tell your Lord that We will appoint messengers who will be

THE MESSENGERS TO CHARLES

with him to-day, and who will answer him to his face for Us, as you have accused Us to Our face; and so prepare to go."

And the messengers went away and returned to King Charles and told him the answer the Lord King of Aragon had made. Six hours of the same day had not gone by when the Lord King of Aragon sent two knights who appeared before King Charles. Without greeting him, they said to him:

"King Charles, our Lord the King of Aragon sends to ask you if you commanded the messengers you sent to-day to say such words as they have said."

And King Charles answered: "Most assuredly; I wish you to know, the King of Aragon and you and all the world, from Our own mouth, that We commanded them to say those words, and so We repeat them again, before you, with Our own mouth."

Then the knights arose, and one of them spoke, and said:

"King, we answer you on the part of our Lord, the King of Aragon, that you lie in your throat; that, by nothing he has done has his honour been tarnished, and that he says that yours was tarnished when you attacked King Manfred; and, if you deny this, that we will make you acknowledge it in single combat. And though he says nothing against your knighthood, for he knows that you are an accomplished knight, yet he will give you the advantage of weapons, in consideration of your greater age. But if you will not accept this, he

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

will fight you, ten against ten, fifty against fifty, or a hundred against a hundred. And this we are prepared to sign."

And King Charles, when he heard this, was very pleased in his mind, for he knew his purpose was realized, and he said:

"Barons, those messengers of Ours, who were in Messina to-day, will go with you; and let the King give his gage before them and swear upon the Holy Gospels, and as King, that he will not retreat from what he says. And We, likewise, will give you Our gage, and We will take the same oath. And We will take the shortest and quickest time We can to be ready for the combat at the place agreed."

King Pedro's messengers and the messengers of King Charles passed over together to Messina and came before the Lord King Pedro of Aragon, and the messengers of King Charles said what he had commanded them to say. And the Lord King took a pair of gloves a knight was holding and threw them down in the presence of all. And the messengers took the gages at once, and the Lord King sent for the Gospels and swore as they requested him.

And the messengers returned at once to Reggio with the messengers of the Lord King of Aragon; King Charles did all that the King of Aragon had done in regard to the gages as well as in regard to the oaths. When this was done and signed it could on no account be gone back upon.

Then King Charles sent to the King of Aragon to

THE COMBAT OF THE KINGS

say that he thought it would not be suitable that they should fight with the smaller number, but with a hundred aside; and that he thought that King Edward of England would be, for both of them, the most acceptable king of the world to be umpire of the combat, as he was one of the most upright kings of the world and a good Christian; and that they should fight in the city of Bordeaux, which was King Edward's city; and that on a fixed day, under penalty for treason, they should each, in person, be at Bordeaux, and on the day fixed the lists should be ready.

The Lord King of Aragon agreed to everything, except that he added to the oath, and required King Charles to do the same, that neither of them should bring more knights or a greater force than the hundred knights who were to enter the lists. And King Charles was pleased with this, and so both swore and signed and thus were the combats of the two kings settled.

CHAPTER V

HOW THE LORD KING SET FREE THE PRISONERS HE HAD TAKEN FROM KING CHARLES AND HOW HE WENT TO TUNIS TO HAVE NEWS OF THE SARACENS AND OF THE GREAT TREACHERY THE KING OF FRANCE AND KING CHARLES PLOTTED AGAINST THE LORD KING EN PEDRO.

WHEN the Lord King of Aragon had settled the combats, he sent for his admiral, the noble En Roger de Luria, and commanded him to give barques to all the Christians they had taken prisoners from King Charles. And he also ordered his steward to have for each prisoner a gown and a shirt and breeches made, and a Catalan cap and belt, and to give each prisoner a Catalan knife and a gold florin for rations, and that they should be taken out of prison at once and prepare to go each to his country.

And the admiral mounted his horse and went to choose the best amongst the barques, and into each he put bread and water and cheese and onions and garlic for fifty people for fifteen days. And when it was all ordained, those people went to the meadow outside Saint John's Gate, and there certainly were more than twelve thousand persons. And the Lord King rode and went to them and had them dressed as has been said before, and spoke and said to them thus:

KING PEDRO AND THE ADMIRAL

“ Barons, it is the truth that you have no guilt in the evil King Charles has done, nor are you guilty in coming with him. And so, in the name of God, We absolve you. Arrange to go everyone to his land; but I beg and advise you that, if you are not forced to it, you do not again fight against Us.”

And all shouted: “ Virtuous Lord, God give thee life, and to us may He give the favour of seeing thee Emperor.”

And they all knelt down and sang the *Salve Regina*. And when they had done this the admiral made them all embark, and so they went, each to his country. The fame of King Pedro's generosity went through all the world.

King Pedro sent for the admiral En Roger de Luria and said to him: “ Admiral, fit out at once twenty-four galleys and man them, for We wish to return to Catalonia in them.”

This he said before all, but at night the Lord King sent again for the admiral, and said to him:

“ Admiral, keep what I am going to tell you secret; I enjoin this upon you as you value Our love. From amongst those galleys you shall man four entirely with Catalans of good birth, and you shall pretend to send them to Tunis; but they shall go to Trapani, and We shall be at Trapani this day fortnight, and so We shall go on board and depart in the keeping of God. And let this be so secret that no man knows anything of it. And you shall remain with the other galleys to guard the island.”

And the admiral said to him: “ Lord, for God's

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mercy, how is this, that you want to pass over to Catalonia with so few galleys?"

Said the Lord King Pedro: "Say nothing more; it shall be done thus."

"Then, Lord, for the love of God let me go with you in those four galleys."

Said the Lord King: "You shall not do so, and do not contradict Us in Our decision."

"Lord," said the admiral, "let it be done as you command."

The Lord King came to Trapani, and the same day the four galleys and another armed vessel, which the admiral had added, came also, and the commander of the galleys was En Ramon Marquet, in whom the King had great confidence.

The Lord King embarked and put out to sea, and the island of Sicily remained well ordered by sea and by land.

The Lord King ordered En Ramon Marquet to steer for Tunis, for he wished to go to the town of Collo, to see if it was inhabited and what was being done and said there. And when he came to the said town of Collo all the people who had returned there, and a thousand men besides who had remained on guard, went to the seashore with their arms, and the galleys were at anchor with their banners hoisted.

The Lord King in person went on board the smallest boat and said: "Let us approach the shore; hang out the shields; I wish to speak with the Saracens."

THE MOORS GIVE SAFE-CONDUCT

“ Ah, Lord,” said Marquet, “ what is it you want to do ? Send me or a knight, and he can equally well give you the news you wish to hear.”

Said the Lord King : “ We shall not like it so well if We do not hear it Ourselves.”

And then the rowers began to row, and when they were within a cross-bow shot of the beach the king sent a seaman, who knew the Saracen language very well, to tell the Saracens to give his boat a safe-conduct and not to act treacherously towards him, and the boat would do the same by them.

“ And if they ask thee about the galleys, whose they are, tell them that they are the King of Aragon’s, and are going with a message to Catalonia. And if they ask thee further, tell them ‘ Yonder knight in the boat will answer any questions you wish to ask him.’ ”

So the seaman landed, and said to them what the Lord King had commanded. And at once the Moors gave them a safe-conduct. And when they had the safe-conduct the boat approached the land, and four Saracen knights on horseback went into the sea, as far as the stern of the boat, and went on board. And the Lord King made them sit down before him, and gave them to eat, and asked for news, what the Moors had said and done when the King of Aragon had gone away.

And they said, after the King of Aragon had set sail, for two days more, no man dared approach the town ; rather they thought the sails were of another fleet which came to aid the King of Aragon.

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"Now tell me," said the Lord King, "on the day of the battle, did you find many men missing?"

"You may be sure," said they, "that altogether we lost more than forty thousand men of arms."

Said the Lord King: "How can that be? We who were with the Lord King of Aragon did not think that we had killed more than ten thousand."

"Assuredly," said they, "there were more than forty thousand, and we tell you that the fleeing crowd was so great that men suffocated each other."

"Now tell me," said the Lord King, "those people, do they wish much evil to the King of Aragon?"

And they answered: "Evil? God forbid! Rather do we wish him more good than to any lord on earth; and we assure you, in good faith, that owing to his merit, if he had remained until now, fifty thousand people would have had themselves baptized and would have become his. And now, as we have told you what you have asked us, we pray you to tell us where the King of Aragon is, or what he did when he departed from this place, and what he has done."

And so the Lord King recounted to them what had happened to him since he left Collo. And they wondered, and said that truly he was the most accomplished knight in the world, and of the greatest courage, and that, if he lived long, he would conquer all the world.

And so they were much pleased with what they had heard, and took leave of the Lord King, and

FRANCE AND KING CHARLES

the Lord King stayed that day at Collo, and at night he put out to sea, and set his course for Catalonia. When he had landed, when he was at the city of Valencia, he at once commanded letters to be written to those he had settled should be with him in the combat.

When King Charles left Calabria he went to Rome to the Pope, to beg him for aid against the Lord King of Aragon. And Pope Martin, a Frenchman, complied willingly, and promised to provide him and the King of France with money. Thus King Charles was comforted and content, and took leave of Pope Martin and of the cardinals and went to France.

And when he and the King of France met there was great mourning for the death of the Count of Alençon. This mourning of theirs and of the people lasted two days, and on the following day King Charles came to speak with the King of France, his nephew, and with the Twelve Peers of France. When they were assembled in council, King Charles rose and bewailed the great dishonour and the great damage the King of Aragon had done him, and begged the King of France and the Twelve Peers for help and advice, and he begged them to enable him to reckon upon them.

And the King of France rose and said: "Uncle, We had heard all that has happened to you, and now We have heard what you have said, and what you ask of us, to which We answer that, for many reasons, We are bound to help and advise you. In

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your dishonour We have greater part than any person in the world, and so likewise in the harm you have suffered, and especially as regards Our brother, the Count of Alençon, whom We have lost by so base a death. But if We had ten times the reasons We have, We should not know what to do; for We are bound to the King of Aragon, Our brother-in-law, by oath, to support him against all men in the world and so, in this strait, We do not know what to say."

Then rose the cardinal who was the Pope's Legate and said: " Lord King, let not this hinder you; I am here with full power from the Holy Father. Wherefore I, in the name of the Holy Apostolic Father, absolve you from all oath and all promise that you have made to your brother-in-law, En Pedro of Aragon. Wherefore, henceforth, hold yourself absolved from all in which you were bound to him. And I require you, in the name of the Holy Father, to prepare to march against him."

Then the King of France answered: " Cardinal, We have heard well what you have said in the name of the Holy Father, and We know that all is as you have said. Wherefore We hold Ourselves absolved of all that bound Us to the King of Aragon, and We fully promise Our uncle, King Charles, the help he asks from Us, and also Our advice in the matter of the combat at Bordeaux. And, Uncle, We will go with you in person, so well accompanied that We do not believe the King of Aragon will be

A GREAT BETRAYAL

so bold as to dare to appear, or, if he does, that he will not fail to lose his life."

Upon this King Charles spoke and said: "Nephew and Lord, We gratefully give you thanks for the good offer you have made Us and the good advice you are giving Us about the journey to Bordeaux. But We fear that the King of Aragon might say something in detriment of Our good faith if We go thus accompanied."

Said the King of France: "He can say nothing against your good faith on that account. The clause you fear says that you shall not bring more than those hundred knights who are to enter the lists with you, and he the same. And you will not bring more than those hundred, but We shall bring whom We like, for there is nothing about that in the covenant. He has not thought of this, and so you will not fail in what you have promised."

Answered King Charles: "Assuredly it is the truth, the covenant says thus; therefore I shall do what you, Lord, have advised."

And a great many of the Twelve Peers present rose and confirmed all the King of France had said, and all offered their person, their fortune, and all they had in aid of King Charles.

And so all agreed to this great treachery, and it will be remembered to their dishonour for ever.

CHAPTER VI

HOW THE ADMIRAL EN ROGER DE LURIA FOUGHT A GREAT BATTLE AND CAPTURED TWENTY-TWO GALLEYS OF THE FRENCH AND HOW THE FRENCH ADMIRAL AND ALL HIS FRIENDS WERE KILLED.

EN ROGER DE LURIA had fitted out the twenty-five galleys, as the Lord King of Aragon had commanded, and had sent four of them to Trapani, to the Lord King, as you have heard already. En Roger himself scoured the coast of Calabria, and in many places he landed men, and they made raids inland, and pillaged towns and homesteads, and their gain was infinite.

When the admiral had scoured the whole of Calabria and had performed many great feats, he returned to Messina. And when he came to Boca del Faro he met at break of day the three galleys which the French admiral En Cornut had sent to get news. Two small armed boats which went ahead of the admiral En Roger saw the three galleys which were posted on the lookout, but were resting for the night, awaiting news. As soon as the two armed boats had discovered them, they returned with muffled oars to the admiral and told him. And at once the admiral placed his galleys so that they surrounded the three galleys, which were quite unable to get away. And he immediately approached

THE ADMIRAL GOES TO MESSINA

them in person with three galleys and attacked them. They seized their oars and turned, but as they turned they saw other galleys already in front of them. They were vanquished and taken. They could say they had sure news of En Roger de Luria.

When the admiral had captured them he learnt all their plans from them, nothing was hidden from him, and he went very joyously to Messina, and towed the three galleys stern foremost and pendants trailing. On that same day he landed all that was in his galleys and all the sick and wounded and took fresh people, and on the following day he left Messina with his twenty-one galleys and two small boats, and also a barge of eight oars, in order to reconnoitre the port of Malta secretly by means of it.

When they had embarked they put out to sea with the land breeze, and before the hour of matins they were before the port, and went on immediately with muffled oars. The two small armed boats went to search the port, and ahead of them, at the distance of a cross-bow shot, went the barge. It entered through the middle of the port with muffled oars, in such manner that it came in front of the castle and found all the galleys, which had their oars unshipped; they counted them all, and found that there were twenty-two galleys and two small boats, and discovered also that these two as well were at their post with oars unshipped. And so the barge went out of the port, and they went to the admiral and told him what they had seen.

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The admiral made his followers put on their armour at once, and he put the galleys in order of battle. When all were ready for battle day was beginning to dawn, and all cried to the admiral: "Let us attack, for they are all ours."

But the admiral said God forbid that he should attack them in their sleep; rather did he wish the trumpets and nakers to be sounded in the galleys to wake them up, and he would let them prepare. He did not wish that any man could say to him that he would not have defeated them if he had not found them asleep. And all cried: "The admiral says well." And this the admiral did more especially as it was his first battle since he had been made admiral, and he thus wished to show his boldness and the prowess of the worthy people with him.

He had the trumpets and nakers sounded, and the galleys began to enter the harbour, formed in line and all lashed together. The Provençals awoke at the evil sound, and at once the admiral En Roger, raising the oars, let them put on armour, and get ready. And there came down from the castle full a hundred men of rank between Provençals and Frenchmen, who went on board their galleys; they were much the stronger, and this appeared clearly in the battle.

En Cornut, the French admiral, had the trumpets sounded and the sails hoisted, and, well prepared and in battle array, he came towards the galleys of En Roger de Luria, and the galleys of En Roger came towards his. In the middle of the harbour

THE BATTLE

they came to the attack so vigorously that the prow of every galley was shattered, and the battle was most cruel and fierce. The play of the lances and darts thrown by the Catalans was such that nothing was a defence against them; for there were darts thrown which passed through men's breast-plates and through everything, and thrusts of lances which passed through the man they hit, and through the deck of the galley. Of the cross-bowmen I need not speak, for they were cross-bowmen who were so dexterous that they did not discharge a shot without killing or disabling the man they attacked.

The battle began at sunrise, and lasted until the hour of vespers, and never could man see more cruel a battle. Although the men of Marseilles had the advantage of one galley more and of the hundred men of rank who had come on board from the castle, in the end, the Provençals could not hold out; for, when the hour of vespers came, full three thousand five hundred of them had been killed, so that those who remained on deck were of no account. When the Catalans saw that those few men were defending themselves so vigorously, they cried in a loud voice: "Aragon, Aragon, at them, at them!" And all gathered fresh strength and boarded the galleys of the Provençals, and all they found on deck were killed. Between wounded and others who hid below, not five hundred men came out alive, and of these many died afterwards of mortal wounds they had received. The admiral En Cornut and all the

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kinsmen and friends he had with him and the men of rank and position were all massacred. And so the twenty-two galleys and one of the smaller armed boats were captured; the other escaped out to sea, for it had many more oars than those of the admiral En Roger; it went to Naples and Mar-seilles to recount their unsuccessful errand. When King Charles knew it he was greatly grieved and displeased, and held his cause for lost.

When the admiral En Roger had refreshed his people for two days he went, with raised banner, as far as the city of Malta, and wished to attack it. But the notables told him not to do them any damage, for the love of God, for the city would put itself in the keeping and under the command of the Lord King En Pedro, and that they surrendered to him, to do and say all he commanded. And the admiral entered the city with all his followers, and received their homage; and then he went, with up-raised banner, to attack the castle; but when he saw that he could do nothing without catapults he departed, resolving shortly to lay a siege he would not raise until he had taken the castle.

He set his course for Sicily, and landed at Syra-cuse, and great honour was shown him, and a great feast made for him. And so likewise a great feast was made for him in each place he went to, and to each place he towed the galleys he had taken, stern foremost and pendants trailing.

CHAPTER VII

HOW THE LORD KING EN PEDRO HEARING OF THE GREAT TREACHERY OF THE FRENCH KING PLANNED TO GO SECRETLY TO BORDEAUX AND BE IN THE LISTS ON THE DAY APPOINTED.

WHEN the combats were settled between the Lord King of Aragon and King Charles they agreed that messengers from each should go together to King Edward of England, who was one of the most noble lords in the world, and that each would pray him to preside over the combat, and to set up the lists in the city of Bordeaux. And the King of England, at the earnest entreaty of both, agreed to guard and secure the lists at Bordeaux. This he promised and assured both kings through their messengers, and also that he would be at Bordeaux in person. And so the Lord King of Aragon thought that the King of England was at Bordeaux, and therefore he sent the noble En Gilabert de Cruilles to him. But when the noble En Gilabert expected to find the King of England at Bordeaux, he did not find him; and he came before his seneschal, who was a man noble and of great probity, and told him the message as he was to have said it to the King of England.

And the seneschal said: " En Gilabert, Lord, my

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Lord the King of England has indeed assured these combats, and promised to be there in person. Now it is the truth that since he assured the combats he has heard for certain that the King of France is coming to Bordeaux, and is bringing full twelve thousand armed knights. So the King of England sees that he will not be able to hold the lists secure, and therefore he does not wish to be present; rather he has commanded me to send word to the King of Aragon not to come to Bordeaux if his life and honour are dear to him; that he knows for certain that the King of France is coming to Bordeaux to kill the King of Aragon and all who will be with him."

The noble En Gilabert, being wise in many ways, sounded the seneschal, in order to know what thoughts he harboured, and he found him always well-disposed towards the King of Aragon; the more he tried him the more true he found him. And so he sent word to the Lord King of Aragon of all the seneschal had told him, and when the Lord King heard what En Gilabert made known to him on the part of the King of England and of the seneschal he was greatly displeased, yet he resolved that on no account would he fail to be in the lists on the day fixed; but this he kept secret, and would confide to no man.

And presently he sent for a worthy merchant, by name En Domingo de la Figuera, who was a good man, and loyal, wise, and discreet, and he was a merchant always dealing in horses in Gascony



The Lord King took a book.

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

and Navarre. He was a man of great wealth, for he collected twenty or thirty horses at a time from Castile and took them to the afore-mentioned places. Therefore you may believe that he knew all the roads there were in each of these provinces, as well high-roads as by-roads, as well in the plains as in the mountains; there was no path that he did not know much better than did the people of the country.

When En Domingo came to the King, the King took him into a chamber and said to him: "En Domingo, We wish you to undertake a thing for which, when accomplished by the help of God, We will reward you so well that it will make you and yours prosperous for ever."

And En Domingo rose and went to kiss his foot, and said: "Lord, command, for I am ready to do all that you command."

Upon this the Lord King took a book in which the Holy Gospels were written, and told him to swear that he would speak to no man in the world of what he was going to say to him. And he swore at once, and did homage to him, and when it was done the Lord King said:

"Know, En Domingo, what you shall do. You shall take twenty-seven horses of Ours, those I shall tell you, and of them you will send nine distributed among three places on the road We shall take from here to Bordeaux, and another nine on the road We may take on Our return through Navarre, and another nine on the road We may take through Castile. Our wish is that, on the

THE KING'S PLAN

day fixed, We be in the lists for the combat at Bordeaux, We in person; and We shall go in this manner: you will ride on horseback, as a lord, and We shall go as your squire on another horse with a hunting spear in Our hand; and We shall have with Us En Bernart de Peratallada, who will ride on another horse with saddle-bags, and he will carry Our saddle-bag, which will be light, for there will not be more in it than Our coat of mail and money for expenses, and he, too, will carry a hunting spear. And we will ride all day without stopping in any place; at night we shall stop at an inn, and we will dine and rest for the night. And when matins are rung we shall have other horses, which we shall find there, and which you will have had saddled; and we shall leave the first horses behind; and we will do the same thing everywhere. I shall be your squire, and shall hold your stirrup when you mount, and I shall carve before you at table, and En Bernart will look after the horses. It is needful that in going we make three days' marches into one, and many more in returning, and we must not return the way we came. And thus We wish it done.

“ So consider what will be the safest road for Us going, and take the nine horses, and send each with a squire among your friends whom you can trust. And also arrange to send them each to the post at which we must find them in order to change, and that the squires know nothing of each other; each is to think that you are sending no more than those

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three, and tell them that you are sending the horses to be sold, and that all three should stop in the same inn; and when we arrive we shall stop at another inn, so that they will not see me, for they would recognize me."

En Domingo answered: " Lord, as you have commanded, so it shall be done. Be of good cheer, with the help of God I shall take you to Bordeaux by such ways that we need fear nothing, and so likewise in returning."

And the Lord King said: " Well said; see that you make haste."

He called at once his Master of the Horse, and told him that if his love was dear to him, and under pain of death, no man must know anything of what he was about to tell him, except he and En Domingo de la Figuera. And he gave him his orders to deliver at once twenty-seven horses to En Domingo, choosing the best.

And the Master of the Horse said: " Lord, leave it to En Domingo and me, for I certainly have under my orders full seventy horses, between those sent to you by the King of Mallorca and the King of Castile and others, and so I can choose the twenty-seven best amongst them, albeit all are so good that there is little to choose."

Said the Lord King: " Now go, and luck go with you."

And as the Lord King had commanded, so all was got ready.

CHAPTER VIII

OF THE JOURNEY OF THE LORD KING AND OF HOW HE KEPT
HIS TRYST AND DEPARTED AGAIN SECRETLY.

THE day of the combat approached. The Lord King En Pedro called En Bernart de Peratallada, who was the son of the noble En Gilabert de Cruilles, and took him into a chamber, together with En Domingo de la Figuera, and he commanded them to be ready that night to depart after midnight. All was got ready, and no man knew anything except those three and the Master of the Horse; for the Lord King knew full well that no one would consent that he put himself in such great venture. But he was of such high courage and so loyal that not for all the world would he have remained behind and not be in the lists on the day that had been fixed.

When midnight had struck they rose, and the Master of the Horse had the three best horses got ready. The Lord King mounted one, and carried in front of him the coat of mail of En Domingo, and a hunting spear in his hand, and underneath he was armed with good epaulieres and a strong camisol; a linen smock, dyed green, covered all, and over that he had put on a much-worn and old coat of mail and a cape, and he wore a cerveliere, with a linen coif over it.

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

En Bernart was armed in the same manner, and carried the bag—namely, a wallet which did not weigh much—and a hunting spear in his hand. En Domingo rode like a well-arrayed lord, as he was accustomed to ride, with his saddle-cloth and with his sun-hat and his gloves, all well ordained. And En Bernart carried a great shepherd's bag, in which there were six big loaves, which they would eat during the day; they would drink water where no one would see them. And so, with the grace of God, they departed.

They always arrived at an inn at the hour of prime, and they did not dismount by day in any village, except in order to drink; the bread they ate walking or riding. When they were at the end of the first journey they found the three horses. En Domingo, with his retinue, went to the hostel where the horses were, and the men with the horses rejoiced greatly, and asked why he had come so late at night. And he told them it was in order that the horses should not suffer from the heat.

Meanwhile, the Lord King and En Bernart made ready the meal, and when En Domingo thought that they might have got it ready, he returned to the hostel where the Lord King and En Bernart were, and he found the table laid. The Lord King gave him water to wash his hands, and En Bernart looked after the horses. And so, when En Domingo had his hand bowl and the Lord King had carved before him, En Bernart came, and he and the Lord King ate together at another table, and so they all

TO BORDEAUX

ate, and as soon as they had eaten they went to lie down. They slept until the hour of matins, and at the hour of matins they rose, and En Domingo took the three horses to the inn of the others, and had their saddles removed, and put on the other three who were rested, and ordered his men to feed them well. And so they proceeded to ride on; and they did every day as they had done on the first day's journey.

They went so long that they came to half a league from Bordeaux at the time of the evening bell. And they went to the tower of an old and worthy knight, who was a great friend of En Domingo de la Figuera, and there they were well received. When they had had supper they went to lie down, and in the morning at dawn they rose and mounted their horses and went towards the lists. And the day was the day fixed for the combat.

At once they sent the old knight to En Gilabert de Cruilles, who was lodged at an inn outside the city, which was nearer the lists than any other there was in the city. They told him to say that En Domingo de la Figuera and a knight of the King of Aragon had arrived, and had spent the night with him; and that he should come at once, alone, without another man, to speak with them. And the old knight went at once to En Gilabert, who was up already, and told him the message. En Gilabert, who knew it was the day on which the kings were to be in the lists, was full of apprehension, and feared what he would see, because he knew the high

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courage and the great loyalty of the Lord King of Aragon. And at once he rode with only the old knight, without calling anyone else. When he was with them, and saw the Lord King and En Bernart, his own son, he changed colour; but he was so wise that he let nothing appear of his surprise, because of the old knight.

The Lord King took him aside, and En Bernart and En Domingo remained with the old knight. And En Gilabert said, when they were apart: "Ah, Lord, what is this you have done, and how could you put yourself into so great a hazard?"

"En Gilabert," said the Lord King, "I wish you to know that even were I certain I have to lose my life here, I should not have refrained from coming, for any reason whatever, and so do not let us make long speech about it. You have sent to tell me that I can trust the seneschal; therefore, go to him and tell him that a knight of the King of Aragon is here who wishes to speak to him, and that he should bring with him a notary and six knights and no more, and that he should come at once."

En Gilabert went to the seneschal and told him what the Lord King had commanded him to say.

The seneschal went at once with the notary, the best and oldest there was at the Court of the King of England, and with the six most honourable knights he had in his company. And when they came to the lists they found the Lord King and En Bernart de Pertallada and En Domingo de la Figuera in the lists.

IN THE LISTS

When the seneschal entered the lists the Lord King went to meet him and his companions, and greeted him in the name of the King, and he courteously returned the greetings, and the King said to him:

“ Seneschal, I have appeared here before you for the Lord King of Aragon, because to-day is the day on which he and King Charles have sworn and promised to be in the lists—this very day. And so I ask you if you can assure the safety of the lists to the Lord King of Aragon, if he comes to these lists to-day.”

And the seneschal said: “ Lord, I answer you briefly in the name of my Lord, the King of England, and in mine, that I cannot assure his safety; rather, in the name of God and of the King of England, we hold him excused; and we declare him fair, loyal, and absolved of his oath, for we could not in any way assure his safety. Rather, we know for certain that if he came here, nothing could save him, nor those who should come with him, for all would die. Behold the King of France and King Charles are here with twelve thousand armed horsemen.”

“ Then,” said the Lord King, “ be pleased, Seneschal, to have letters made of this, and command your clerk to write them.”

Said the seneschal: “ I am content.” And so he commanded it; and at once the notary wrote all the seneschal had said.

And when he came to ask the King what his name

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was, the King said: "Seneschal, you assure my safety and that of those who are with me?"

"Assuredly, Lord, yes," said he, "upon the troth of the King of England."

And then the Lord King threw back his hood and said:

"Seneschal, do you know me?"

And then the seneschal looked at him and knew that it was the King of Aragon; and he was about to dismount, but the Lord King would not suffer it, and gave him his hand to kiss.

And the seneschal said: "Lord, what is this that you have done?"

"I," said he, "have come here to fulfil my oath, and I wish the notary to write down at length all that you have said and that I have said, and how I have appeared in person, and have searched the lists."

And then he urged his horse, and rode all round the lists and down the middle in the presence of the seneschal and of all those who were there; and meanwhile the notary was writing. And whilst he was writing truthfully all pertaining to the event and in justification of the Lord King, the said Lord King did not cease to ride round the lists, so that he went all over them, with his hunting spear in his hand, and all said: "Ah, God, what a knight have we here; never was knight born who could be compared to him."

And then the Lord King went to the chapel and dismounted, and held the reins in his hands, and

THE KING'S GIFT

prayed to God, and said the orisons that were suitable for him to say. When he had finished his prayer he returned to the seneschal and the rest of the company. And all was set down in writing and attested by the seneschal's witnesses. The Lord King requested the seneschal to order the notary to make of this account two documents: "One to remain with you, and the other to be given by you to En Gilabert de Cruilles for Us."

This done, the Lord King took the seneschal by the hand and started on his way, and went where they had lain that night. When they came before the tower, said the Lord King to the seneschal: "This knight has treated Us with great honour, and given Us much entertainment in his house, wherefore I pray you that, for Our honour, the King of England and you make him such gift that it will increase his importance and that of his family."

"Lord," said the seneschal, "this shall be done."

And so the Lord King mounted, and with the seneschal he started on his way, and went speaking to him all the time for the distance of full a league, and gave him thanks for the good disposition he had found in him.

The seneschal said to En Domingo de la Figuera:

"En Domingo, you know the roads; I advise you not on any account to return the way you came, neither through Navarre, for I know that the King of France has written to all parts that from this day onwards every man be taken who belongs to the King of Aragon, whether he be going or coming."

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Said En Domingo: " Lord, you say well, and we will give good heed to what you say."

Then they took leave of each other; and the King went and took the road of Castile, and so came to Catalonia.

When the seneschal had departed from the King of Aragon he went to the King of France and to King Charles, and told them all that had happened.

They mounted and went to the lists, and saw the nail-marks of the horse-shoes, and the proof of all the seneschal had told them. The renown of it spread through the host and through all the country, and that night you might see fires, and every man armed, and the horses with their armour on, for that night no man in the French host slept.

On the following day the tents were struck, and the two Kings went away together to Toulouse.

CHAPTER IX

HOW THE FRENCH KING MARCHED TO THE PYRENEES AND
HOW KING PEDRO MADE READY TO DEFEND THE PASS
OF PANISARS AND HOW THE FRENCH KING PASSED OVER
WITH ALL HIS HOST AND BESIEGED PERALADA.

THE Lord King En Pedro knew full well the evil designs of the King of France against him and the great preparations he was making for the invasion of his territories; and he knew that the King of France had issued out of Paris and was coming with an immense host by sea and by land. And so the Lord King En Pedro sent messengers throughout Aragon and his letter of summons throughout Catalonia, to the nobles and knights and citizens to command them to come armed to the Pyrenees, to the Pass of Panisars, on the day indicated, for he intended to oppose the King of France there and prevent his invading his territory.

And all, when they had received the command, were at the Pass of Panisars, and there they pitched their tents, and so did the King's son, the Lord Infante En Alfonso, with a great number of knights. The Lord King, himself with all the other followers, was at the Pass of Panisars.

All the host of the King of France was in tents from Perpignan to Boulou, and every day they of

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

the King of Aragon's host raided right up to the tents, killing and taking many, and doing them much damage.

The King of France stayed there full fifteen days, not knowing what to do. But one day he decided to go on to the Pass of Panisars, and to try and get through. When he came to Boulou, he looked at the place over which he had to pass, and saw all the mountains covered with the tents of the host of the Lord King of Aragon, and he cursed him who had advised him to pass over it.

One day he tried to pass, but so mad an attempt men had never made. Suddenly more than fifty thousand men were upon them, almugavars and retainers, who attacked their van in such manner that you might have seen them fall and be precipitated down the mountain, man and horse. And they took so much damage that that day they lost more than a thousand horsemen and innumerable men afoot.

The King of France did not know what to do. Then, one day, four monks, who were from Toulouse and were in a monastery near Argeles, went to the King of France, and one of them was the abbot of that place. And he said: "Lord, I and these other monks are natives of your country, and your natural subjects. Wherefore, Lord, it would grieve us much that you should return with such great dishonour. And so, Lord, if it is your pleasure, we will show you where you can pass. It is the truth that the place is strong; but, owing

THE PASS OF MANZANA

to neglect, there are no people there who could oppose you. There are at the most fifty men, and you, Lord, have many people with spades and picks and axes. Let one of your nobles go at once with a thousand armed horse, and with many men afoot who are to go in front with the said implements to make roads. And in advance of them some thousand foot-soldiers could go, in order that, if they are perceived, they could deal with the enemy; so that those who are making the roads need not desist from their work. Thus assuredly, Lord, you and all your followers will be able to pass over; for, when you have a thousand men up there on the pass, do not fear that anyone could take it from you. Before they could do so, you and all your chivalry would have gone up. And that place, Lord, is called the Pass of Manzana."

At once the King called the Count of Aymenart and the seneschal of Toulouse, and bid them be ready at midnight to follow these friars with a thousand armed horse, and with two thousand foot-soldiers, and to take all there were in the host of men with spades and with hoes and picks and axes and cutlasses. When midnight came the Count of Aymenart and the seneschal, with all those people, followed the friars and began to make roads. When dawn came the two thousand foot-soldiers were on the top of the pass, and had not been perceived by those who were on guard there until they came upon them. Assuredly, owing to the bad watch they kept, they were all cut down; for,

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of fifty who were there, not more than five escaped, who raised the cry of alarm, and fled towards the host at the Pass of Bañolas. Those who were on guard there went towards the Pass of Manzana, and when they looked they saw a great congregation of people who had already come up, and they saw that they could do nothing. They decided to return; beyond Tornavels, where there were some more men, they struck the tents, and all went home. And at once they sent a message to the Lord King at the Pass of Panisars, and let him know that the French had gone over the Pass of Manzana.

But the Lord King could not believe it; he sent a thousand almugavars in that direction, and they found that the pass was already held by a great number of people. They said: "On no account will we go away without news; we will abide the night, and at dawn we will attack them, and we must do them great damage; we will take three or four alive back with us, who shall tell the Lord King of Aragon how it has happened."

In the hosts of the King of France all had been accomplished as the abbot and the monks had dictated. As soon as some of the chivalry had searched the top they joyously sent messengers to the King of France to say they had taken the pass without any hindrance, and that the road was made in such manner that the carts could pass, and so that he should come with all his host. When the King of France knew this he was very glad, and at once proceeded to unfurl his great banner, the Oriflamme,

THE FRENCH AT THE PASS

and all the host prepared to go up. Within four days a road had been made such as loaded carts could go up by.

When next day came at dawn the almugavars attacked them, and the greatest clamour of the world arose in the host of the King of France, for they imagined the King of Aragon had come. And you might see armed horses and everyone rush down, for all thought they were lost, as they would have been if only three thousand almugavars had come.

Two thousand retainers of the French held firm all the time, and took a height, and on it defended themselves until it was day, for they would not abandon the pass. When it was day it was seen that those who had done this were few. The lances and darts of the almugavars made play, but the almugavars saw the great force which was there and which was coming up, and that already there were more than a thousand armed horse. So they collected on a crest of the mountain, and took with them more than ten worthy and honourable men, and killed and hurled down more than a thousand horse and foot. Then they went their way, and went to the Lord King of Aragon, and recounted to him the whole matter, and brought him the prisoners who recounted the event to him as it had happened.

And the Lord King sent a proclamation throughout his host that all should strike the tents and return to their villages, and so at once they carried out his commands. He, with the Lord Infante Alfonso and his nobles and knights of Catalonia,

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went to Peralada, and when they were at Peralada a message came to them from the monastery of San Quirico that the King of France was at the said monastery with all his chivalry.

The King of France stopped eight days in the village of San Quirico, for he would not move until all his followers, horse and foot, and the carts and mules had gone over the pass; nor until he knew that his fleet was in the port of Rosas, which is the best port in Catalonia and the greatest, so that all the shipping in existence could lie in it.

When all had gone over the pass and were assembled in San Quirico the host moved on in battle-array, in the order in which all would have to fight. They all marched in good order, in armour, and came straight to Peralada, and so they were all in that beautiful plain of Peralada, and the host of the King of France could never be seen so well as it was seen from the town of Peralada. There was not a tent that could not be seen from the walls. The Lord King of Aragon saw them thus all and, so likewise he saw all the fleet of the King of France enter the Bay of Rosas in infinite numbers. And as the Lord King of Aragon marvelled, so did all who saw this. The King of France himself and those who were with him were full of wonder, for they had never seen themselves thus assembled. When they had all settled down to the siege and had pitched their tents, and the fleet had taken the town of Rosas, they put their provisions into the houses of the town.

CHAPTER X

HOW A WOMAN OF PERALADA CAPTURED A FRENCH KNIGHT
AND HIS HORSE.

THE fields and gardens of Peralada are the best there are in this world; no man can enter them without losing his way, no one can know the way across except those who are of the town, born and bred. Any Frenchman or other man of the King of France's host who entered the gardens did so to his undoing, and never came out again otherwise than dead or a prisoner. I must recount to you a marvellous thing which is as certain as what everyone beholds with his own eyes.

There was a woman in Peralada whom I knew and saw. She was a very clever woman, and big and strong. One day, whilst the host of the French was before Peralada, she issued from the town and went to a garden of hers to pick cabbages. She put on a man's gown and took a lance, and girded on a sword and carried a shield on her arm and went to the garden. When she was there she heard small bells, and she wondered, and at once left off picking cabbages and went to whence the sound came to see what it was. She looked and saw in the trench that was between her garden and another a French knight on his horse armed with bells on the poitral; he was going hither and

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She thrust at him with her lance.

THE BRAVE WOMAN

thither, not knowing how to get out. And she, when she saw him, quickly took a step forward and thrust at him with her lance, and hit him so hard on the thigh that it passed through his thigh and the saddle, and pricked the horse. As soon as the horse felt itself wounded it bucked and reared, so that the knight would have fallen if he had not been chained to the saddle.

The woman took hold of her sword and aimed at another opening in the armour, and wounded the horse in the head, and it was stunned. She seized it by the reins and cried: "Knight, you are a dead man if you do not surrender."

And the knight thought himself a dead man; he threw down the sword he was carrying and surrendered to her, and she took his sword and then pulled out the lance which was sticking in his thigh, and so she brought him into Peralada.

Of this thing the Lord King and the Lord Infante were very joyous and very content, and they made her relate many times how she had captured the knight. He and his arms were hers, and he paid a ransom of two hundred gold florins, which she received.

CHAPTER XI

HOW THE LORD KING EN PEDRO LEFT PERALADA AND HOW
THE ALMUGAVARS WICKEDLY BURNT THE TOWN AND
HOW CASTELLON SURRENDERED TO THE FRENCH.

THE nobles and barons said to the Lord King that it was not well that he and the Infante should remain in Peralada, but that they should go and encourage the country, and that most of the nobles should go and fortify their castles, because from their castles they could do much damage to the enemy; and that Viscount Cardona, who had offered to aid and defend the city of Gerona, should go and settle and garrison the said city, and that it would suffice if two nobles with their companies remained in Peralada. All this was ordained, and Viscount Cardona went to Gerona and entered it and cleared the city of women and children, and garrisoned the city and the district very well.

When all was settled everyone took leave of the Lord King of Aragon, who prepared to issue forth on the following day. He had a general Council assembled, and said many good words to them. The notables of Peralada said to him: " Lord, fear not for this place, for it is a strong and fine place, and well supplied with victuals and people; with the favour of God we shall do so much that we shall

THE GREAT FIRE

hold the King of France back, so that he cannot go on. But if he does, we shall close the barriers and the roads, and cut off his supply of victuals."

The almugavars who were with the Lord King were full five thousand; the Lord King had ordained that a thousand should remain in Peralada, whereat those who were ordered to remain were much grieved. It went to their hearts to think of the gain the others would make from the French in their raids, and they resolved they would remedy the grievance.

You shall hear the great crime they committed. When midnight came and the Lord King and the Lord Infante might be as far as Vilabertran or Figueras, the almugavars set fire to the town in full a hundred places, and cried: "Flee! Flee!" The worthy gentry and the good men who were lying abed and heard the cry of alarm and saw the town ablaze with fire, all ran to save a son or a daughter, and every man his wife or his children; and the almugavars proceeded to steal and plunder everything. The whole town was ablaze with fire and, besides the walls, not ten houses remained standing. It was a great loss, for Peralada was a very ancient town, and had never belonged to the Saracens.

That night the King of France and all the host who saw the great fire wondered, and all night they sat their horses in armour. When day broke and they saw all the town still burning, they saw it was all forsaken, and they entered it and put out the

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fire as well as they could. Those who were good men regretted much that so beautiful and important a place was burnt.

When the Lord King and the Lord Infante and all knew this, that the town of Peralada had been thus destroyed, they were greatly displeased; but the times were such that nothing could be done.

When the Lord King had left Peralada he went to Castellon, where he found the Count of Castellon, who did not know what to do when he heard that Peralada had been burnt. Neither did the men of Castellon, for they knew that, as Peralada was abandoned, they could not hold out against the forces of the King of France. The notables went to their lord, the Count, and said to him:

"Lord, tell the Lord King of Aragon, who is coming, that if he and his knights wish to enter the town, they can do so. But we do not wish any almugavars to set foot in it, for they would do with us as they did with Peralada. We pray you to advise us as to what you wish us to do. If you wish it we are prepared to abandon Castellon and follow you with our wives and children, and we ourselves will set fire to the town. We prefer to burn our town and carry away what we can rather than that the almugavars should plunder us, as they have done the worthy men of Peralada, who, as they went out with their silver treasures or other goods or their clothes, had them taken from them as soon as they were outside their gates."

And the Count answered: "Notables, I shall go

A SURRENDER

out and meet the King with twenty of you, and so we shall see what the Lord King wishes and commands."

They went out and found the Lord King, who said to them: " Since this disaster of Peralada has happened We know that Castellon cannot hold out against the forces of the King of France. Wherefore I command and consent and tell you that you give leave to the notables of Castellon to surrender to the King of France, and I absolve you and them of all you owe me."

So they of Castellon had a general council assembled, and told them what they had done. And before they left the council they summoned the abbot of Rosas and the abbot of San Pedro and sent them to the host of the King of France, and he admitted them under the security and safeguard of the crown of France. He granted them fair terms, for he was more softened than he had been when he reflected that he had been paying his followers fully three months, and, as yet, had not obtained one place, neither by surrender nor by force. This maddened him, for he had imagined that, as soon as he had got through the passes, all the country would surrender to him, but he found quite the contrary. He had not expected to fight so strong a people.

The King of France went to lay siege to Gerona, and his galleys came to San Feliu, but the ships and provisions were all in the port of Rosas.

CHAPTER XII

HOW THE LORD KING GARRISONED GERONA AND DEPARTED FROM THE CITY AND THE FRENCH KING BESIEGED IT AND HOW A GREAT PESTILENCE BROKE OUT AMONGST THE FRENCH AND HOW EN RAMON MARQUET PREPARED TO CAPTURE THE FRENCH GALLEYS.

THE Lord King of Aragon had set in order and garrisoned the city of Gerona, and left there Viscount Cardona as chief and head, and together with him many honourable knights and citizens, and when he saw that the King of France had pitched his tents and ordained the siege, he departed thence and went to Besalu and garrisoned that town well and also the castles which are around Gerona. The men whom the Lord King of Aragon put into the castles and villages gave many bad mornings to the French host, and they scattered and destroyed many a fine drove of cattle which was coming from Rosas to the Frenchmen's camp. The men of arms got so much from the French, and destroyed so many, and performed so many feats of chivalry and of light troops against them that I should have too much to do were I to tell you all.

I tell you truly that they held the Frenchmen so closely that they could not go to fetch grass or wood without armed horse pursuing them. And,

THE SPIES OF EN RAMON

likewise, those inside Gerona made sorties and gave them plenty of bad times, for there was no day on which they did not make them get up from their meals three or four times, nor did they let them have a good sleep. Neither eating nor sleeping did them any good, and they were attacked by so much sickness that it was the greatest pestilence that ever fell upon a people. And the Lord King of Aragon had the frontier garrisoned in such manner that never was a host in greater straits than that of the King of France; and when he saw that he had thus well ordained the frontier, and that the matter of the war was likewise very well settled with expert people, and that they would give plenty to do to his enemies, he went to Barcelona; and he summoned his admiral En Ramon Marquet, and the admiral said to him:

“Lord, you will find twelve galleys and four armed small boats equipped—namely, the ten new galleys that you ordered to be made and two old ones which were here, which we have had repaired.”

Said the Lord King: “You have done well; now say what you intend to do with these galleys.”

“Lord,” said En Ramon, “I will tell you. It is the truth that I have had and have my spies in Rosas and Cadaques. The French hold both these places. And so, likewise, I have some spies in San Feliu, and I have learnt for certain that the galleys of the King of France are altogether a hundred and sixty, of which the admiral, called En Lodève, has

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ordained that sixty, well armed, should always remain with him at San Feliu. And under his vice-admiral fifty armed galleys come and go with victuals between San Feliu and Rosas; they do nothing else but load with victuals many barges and small boats which come with them from Rosas to San Feliu, and then return with them. And, besides, they have sent twenty-five to Marseilles and other French ports to bring victuals, so that the ships and boats never cease to come and go, for that reason. The remaining twenty-five stop at Rosas, well armed and well apparelled to guard the port. I have thought, Lord, that if you wish it, I shall put out to sea with my twelve galleys and small boats. When I am off Cape Creus I shall go out to sea and cruise about, and at night I shall draw near Cadaques. I have arranged with En Gras, who is the principal man in Cadaques, that two nephews he has, who were brought up with me, should be every night at the point of Port Ligat, and there I shall have news of the French, for I have arranged that En Gras has four men who do nothing else but come and go between Rosas and Cadaques, and who tell him every day what is being done there. I know that the fifty galleys have left San Feliu to go to Rosas full four days ago, and when they are at Rosas they are usually despatched again within five days. As soon as I have news of all this I shall enter the Bay of Rosas, and at dawn I shall attack the twenty-five galleys. Be sure, Lord, that I go there with the determination that

TOWARDS CADAQUES

either we remain there and are cut to pieces or we take them."

The Lord King was much pleased with the endeavours of En Marquet, and he answered him with a kind countenance and laughing: "Notable, We are very pleased with you and with your good sense and daring, and it is Our pleasure that it be as you have planned.

The admiral and his men took leave of the Lord King and all their friends, and all prepared to follow the course indicated to them, and when they had departed no one knew why they went, except the Lord King and En Ramon Marquet.

They embarked and rowed out to sea, appearing to steer for Sicily; but when they were out at sea in such manner that no one could see them from Catalonia, and the breeze had become a fine west wind, they hoisted their sails and took their course for Cape Creus. In the course of that day and night and the following day they were in the waters of Cape Creus, about twenty-five miles at sea, off the cape. When the sun had set they sailed nearer the land and shaped their course for Cadaques; the breeze outside was south-east, so that at vesper time they were at two small islands near Cadaques.

At once En Ramon Marquet had two cousins of En Gras, who were with him, put on shore by one of the small boats, and these had already agreed with En Gras what signal they would make when they met his two nephews there. This En Gras was able to do, for he was lord and governor

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of Cadaques for the Count of Ampurias, and so he was likewise for the King of France. What he was doing he did by the order of his lord, the Count of Ampurias, wherefore these two nephews of his and these two kinsmen of his who had come with En Ramon could do their business quite secretly, for they had nothing to fear.

When these kinsmen of En Gras had made their signal, at once the two nephews of En Gras went to meet them, and together with them went to En Ramon Marquet. As soon as En Ramon saw them he said to them: "Barons, you are welcome; what can you tell me of our enemies?"

"Lord, be assured that no man could ever have come at a better time than you have. Know that, yesterday morning, the fifty galleys departed from Rosas with many barges and small boats, and put out to sea with the land breeze, but changed their course, and yesterday they were sailing all day, so that we reckon that they have passed Cape Aiguafreda."

"Now," said En Ramon, "what can you tell me of Rosas?"

"Lord," said one of those two cousins of En Gras, "I was at Rosas yesterday, and when the fifty galleys had departed thence there did not remain more than twenty-five, which, certainly, are well equipped and well manned with knights and seamen and expert people, and they guard the port, and their captain is a nobleman from Provence, En G. de Lodève."

Now said En Ramon: "At night, where are they?"

"Lord," said he, "every night, when they have saluted the sun, they go to the outer point of the port and remain hove to, and so they remain until sunrise next day. Thus they are every day, according to this rule they have. I have been in the galleys more than ten nights, at several times, with acquaintances I have there, and I saw that they always keep the same order."

"Then, Notables, what do you advise me to do?"

"We pray you," said they, "as you will go there and fight them, that it please you that we go with you; for assuredly, if you are determined on it, they will all be yours, with the help of God."

"Barons," said En Ramon, "it is enough that these two cousins of yours be with us; it would not be well that you should leave your uncle, En Gras. And so go with good luck, for we shall be at them in the morning. And greet your uncle from us."

"Lord," said they, "you would do us a much greater favour if you took us with you."

But En Ramon said: "I shall certainly not do that; I do not wish, on any account, that the notable, En Gras, see you engaged in anything but what is pleasing to him."

With that he commended them to God, and the two young men recounted to En Gras what they had done. And then they took twenty followers and went along the shore to where they could see the battle.

CHAPTER XIII

HOW EN RAMON MARQUET FOUGHT THE FRENCH ADMIRAL
LODÈVE AND CAPTURED HIM AND ALL HIS GALLEYS.

THE galleys began to row at dawn, and they came upon the twenty-five French galleys. Two small boats of En Lodève, which were on guard, had seen and counted the galleys, and at once came to him and said: "Lord, get up, and make your followers arm themselves, for you can see from here eleven galleys and two small boats coming; assuredly they are the eleven galleys and two small boats of En Ramon Marquet, of which we have had news that they had left Barcelona."

At once En Lodève had the trumpets and nakers sounded and made every man arm, and meanwhile day broke and the galleys saw each other. En Lodève had the sails unfurled and steered for the eleven galleys which were outside, in order that they should not come near the shore. He came at them with fifteen galleys lashed together, and ten following astern in the intervals between them, in such wise that none could escape them. And, assuredly, he ordered them wisely.

En Ramon had his galleys lashed together with long ropes, and they made fast all the oars with long ropes so that the enemy should not be able to get

CATALAN CROSS-BOWS

between them until they loosened the oars and came to a hand-to-hand fight.

And I wish you all to know (and he who tells you this has been in many battles) that on the cross-bowmen depends the issue of the battle after the galleys tie up their oars. Whilst the galley-slaves row, the cross-bowmen are occupied with their cross-bows, for all Catalan cross-bowmen are people who can renovate a cross-bow, and every man knows how to put it together, and how to make light darts and bolts, and how to twist and tie the string; he understands all that pertains to a cross-bow. He carries all his tools in a box: it is as if he had a workshop. A cross-bowman does another useful thing; when he sees that a sailor in the topmast, or a man rowing on his bench, is tired and wants to eat or drink, he will come forward and will ply his oar for pleasure until the other man has done what he wished or is refreshed.

The galleys were poop to poop, and the other ten were astern of them, and no one could enter between, on account of the oars which were lashed together; in bows and stern you might have seen lances and darts flung by the hand of Catalans which went through whatever they reached, and, besides, the cross-bowmen shot in such manner that not one dart missed. They of the galleys of En Lodève remained sword or bordon in hand, unable to do anything. The battle lasted so long that En Ramon Marquet saw that the decks of the enemy's galleys had been in great part cleared by the cross-bowmen,

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who had been dealing mortal wounds, and those who were still left on deck were men of rank, and were more in need of doctors than of fighting.

When they had seen this they had the trumpet of their galley sounded. It was the signal agreed upon, that as soon as the trumpet of En Ramon Marquet sounded, everyone should ship the oars and go amongst the enemy. So it was done, and when the galleys were mingled you might have seen thrusts of bordons and swords and blows given with maces. The cross-bowmen dropped their cross-bows and rushed at their enemies to fight hand-to-hand. The battle was hard and cruel after they had come together, but, in the end, the Catalans were victorious, so that they took all the galleys. Assuredly, there died in the battle, on the side of En Lodève, more than four thousand men, and of the Catalans about a hundred and no more.

And so, when they had won the battle and taken En Lodève and some other knights (but few had remained alive and they badly wounded), they towed the galleys outside, and came to a point near Cadaques, and there the men went on shore and refreshed themselves, with great joy and gladness at the great booty they had taken. The two nephews of En Gras, with the twenty followers, came to them, and En Ramon Marquet sent En Gras a thousand gold florins, and gave another thousand to his nephews. This he did without any of the twenty followers knowing anything about it; rather, as the nephews approached him, they asked

EN RAMON ARRIVES AT BARCELONA

for a safe-conduct, as if they had never known each other. This was done in order that none of the twenty followers should be able to denounce them.

Their cousins, who were in the galleys, had made much gain; but, besides the gain they had made, En Ramon gave them each two hundred gold florins and other things. So the nephews of En Gras went to Cadaques, joyous and content, and gave their uncle the thousand florins and recounted the whole event to him. The notable had great joy and great content at it, but he did not let it appear at all.

En Ramon crowded on sail and steered for Barcelona. At the end of that day and night and next morning they were in sight of Barcelona. When they of the city saw them they feared greatly that the twenty-one galleys had been lost; indeed, all were full of apprehension. But the Lord King came to the shore on horseback, with much chivalry, and looked at the galleys and counted twenty-two big sail and two small boats. And he said: "Barons, be of good cheer and joyous, for these are our galleys, bringing twenty-one others; and see their two small boats which they are bringing."

CHAPTER XIV

HOW THE LORD KING OF ARAGON FOUGHT WITH TWO HUNDRED
ALMUGAVARS AGAINST FOUR HUNDRED FRENCH KNIGHTS
WHO WERE IN AMBUSH AND DEFEATED AND KILLED THEM.

THE Lord King issued from Barcelona and returned to where the Lord Infante Alfonso and the chiefs and knights and other people were, whom he had left on the frontier; and he went from one to the other with a few men afoot to see what they were doing.

On the day in August of Our Lady Saint Mary, as he was going towards Besalu, he happened upon an ambuscade of four hundred French knights, who had been put in ambush because a convoy with provisions was coming to the host from Rosas. Men on horseback and on foot always attacked them in that place, and therefore they occupied it in the night, in order to punish them.

The Lord King was going along, speaking of how he had seen that his people in every place on the frontier had riches and plenty, through the many forays they made every day against the French, killing many and making infinite gain, so that all were cheerful and content. And as the Lord King was going along thus carelessly, it happened that the almugavars (of whom there were about two hundred with him, who were going along the ravines



The Lord King was the first to rush on.

of the mountains) started two or three hares. The almugavars began to scream and shout loudly, and the Lord King and those who were with him, who were about sixty men on horseback, at once seized their arms, imagining that the others had seen chivalry. And the French who were in hiding imagined that they had been discovered and came out of the ambush.

The Lord King, who saw them, said: "Barons, let us act prudently, let us join our men afoot, for there are many knights here in ambush waiting for us."

All answered: "Lord, do us the grace and favour to go up this mountain, so that your person be safe; for we fear nothing, but only for your person, and when you are there you will see what we are doing."

Said the Lord King: "God forbid that We should take another path because of them."

Some of the almugavars who were near the Lord King collected round him, but they were not more than a hundred when they broke their lances in half and attacked.

The Lord King was the first to rush on, and he attacked with his lance the first man he encountered in the middle of his shield in such manner that the man had no need to seek a doctor. And then he drew his sword and lay about here and there, and opened a way for himself, so that none of them, when they had recognized him by his mode of attack, dared to await him for a direct blow. The others who were with him did so well that no

THE DEATH OF NEVERS

knights could perform greater feats of chivalry than they did. Of the almugavars it is right I should tell you that they went at them with shortened lances in such manner that there was no horse left that was not disabled. This they did when they had spent all their darts, for you may believe that there was no one who, with his dart, had not killed a knight or a horse. And then, with the shortened lances, they did marvels. The Lord King was now here, now there, now on the right, now on the left, and fought so hard with his sword that it broke all to pieces. At once he seized his mace, with which he attacked better than any man in the world.

He approached the Count of Nevers, who was chief of that company, and with his mace gave him such a blow on the helmet that he felled him to the ground. And at once he turned and said to a gallant youth who never left his side, who was called En Guillem Escriva, and who was riding a horse with a light saddle: "Guillem, dismount and kill him." And the young man set foot on the ground and killed him. When he had killed him, to his undoing, the sword the Count was carrying, which was very richly ornamented, caught his eye and he unfastened it; and whilst he was unfastening it, a knight of the dead Count, seeing that this youth had killed his lord, rushed at him and gave him such a blow on the shoulders that he killed him. The Lord King turned, and seeing that this knight had killed Guillem Escriva, gave him such a blow of his mace on his iron cap, that he fell dead to the ground.

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In this place, because of the Count who had been killed, you might have seen great blows given and taken. The Lord King, who saw his followers so hard pressed, rushed upon his enemies and made room for himself, for he, altogether, killed with his own hand more than fifteen knights, for, believe me, those he reached needed no second blow.

In this press a French knight, seeing that the Lord King was doing them so much injury, came towards him sword in hand, and cut his reins, so that, for this reason, the Lord King was nearly lost. Wherefore no knight should go to a fight without two pairs of reins, one pair of chain and the other of leather, and those of chain should be covered with leather. The Lord King was helpless, the horse carried him hither and thither; but four almugavars, who were keeping near him, approached him and tied his reins. The Lord King kept this knight who had cut his reins well in mind, and went towards where he was and paid him for this pleasure he had done him in such manner that he could never cut any more reins, but was killed like his lord.

Then, when the Lord King had returned into the throng, you might have seen attack and assault; there were nobles and knights in the company of the Lord King who had never been at feats of arms before, and everyone on this day did marvels on his own account, and all this came of the great love they had for the Lord King, and of what they saw him do with his own hands.

The French wished to collect on a height, but the

THE END OF THE DAY

Lord King rushed towards him who was carrying the banner of the Count and gave him such a blow on the helmet with his mace that he felled him dead to the ground, and the almugavars at once tore the banner of the host to pieces. The French, who saw this, collected in close formation, and the Lord King went to attack amongst them with all his men. The French had seized a hillock, and were so close together that neither the Lord King nor any of his followers could penetrate amongst them. Nevertheless, the battle lasted until it was vesper-time and dark. Of the French there were not left more than eighty knights.

The Lord King said: "Barons, it is night, and we might hit each other as well as them, therefore let us assemble." And when they were collected on another hill, they saw full five hundred French knights coming with their banners. There were amongst them three counts, kinsmen of the Count of Nevers, who were anxious about him, because he had gone into ambush and they had not seen him return at midday, when he should have returned to the host; with the leave of the King of France they went to search for him. And so they saw those knights on a hill, and the King of Aragon on another.

They went at once to their countrymen, who came down to meet them, and they heard the bad issue of their enterprise and went to where the Count and fully six others, kinsmen of his, were lying dead. They carried them away with great weeping and great cries, and marched all night

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until they came to the host, and when they came to the host you might have seen great mourning and weeping and cries, so that it seemed all the world was crumbling. Viscount Cardona, who was in Gerona, sent ten men out to bring back news; and they captured men of the host whom they took into the city. When Viscount Cardona asked them what yonder weeping and lamenting was for, they recounted to him what had happened, and Viscount Cardona had great illuminations made throughout the city of Gerona.

CHAPTER XV

HOW THE KING OF FRANCE RAISED THE SIEGE OF GERONA AND FELL ILL AND DIED AND HOW THE LORD KING EN PEDRO ALLOWED HIS SON TO GO OVER THE PASS OF PANISARS WITH THE BODY OF HIS FATHER AND WITH ALL HIS FOLLOWERS AND HOW THE ALMUGAVARS AND OTHERS FELL UPON THE FRENCH REAR AND KILLED AND ROBBED AND HOW THE LORD KING OF ARAGON WENT TO BARCELONA AND FELL ILL AND DIED AND HOW THE LORD INFANTE ALFONSO WAS CROWNED KING AND DIED SOON AFTER.

THE Lord King of Aragon had gone to the Pass of Panisars with all his people, horse and foot, who were on the frontiers, in order that neither the King of France nor any man of his host should escape him. And when the King of France knew all this he raised the siege of Gerona, ill and distressed, and went to the plain of Peralada and there collected all his followers. Assuredly, he did not find that in all his host he had three thousand armed horse, and of men of arms afoot none, for all had died, some in feats of arms and some by sickness; indeed, he held himself for lost. He was so full of grief that his illness grew worse. He summoned his sons to his presence, and he received all the Sacraments that a good Christian should receive, and when he had received them he passed away gently and made a good end, in the year 1285, at the end of the month of September.

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When the King of France was dead, his son, King Philip, commanded that his death should be kept secret, but he sent his secret messengers to the Lord King of Aragon, who was at the Pass of Panisars, and let him know that his father was dead, and begged him earnestly to let him pass with his followers.

When the Lord King of Aragon received this message, it is said he at once let it be known to his brother, the King of Mallorca, who was two leagues distant from where the host was. He told him to issue forth with his chivalry and followers to meet King Philip of France, and receive him at La Clusa, in order that the almugavars and seamen, who were already at the pass with the admiral En Roger de Luria, should not annihilate the Frenchmen; and that, beyond the pass, he himself would forbid his men, as much as he was able, to go near the Oriflamme. In this way they would prevent their followers from doing the Frenchmen the great hurt they might do them.

King Philip summoned his barons and formed a vanguard of five hundred armed horse, and then came he, with the Oriflamme and with his brother and the body of his father, and with them went about a thousand armed horse. After that came all the pack-mules and the lesser people and the men afoot. In the rear came all the rest of the chivalry who had been left, who might be about fifteen hundred armed horse. God knows what sort of night the French had, for no one took off his armour

THE KING OF ARAGON

nor slept; but rather, all night you might have heard laments and groans. The almugavars and retainers and seamen who had come from Rosas attacked them on the flanks and killed men and broke coffers; you would have heard a greater crashing from the breaking of the coffers than if you had been in a wood in which a thousand men did nothing else but split wood.

And thus they spent all that night; and next morning the Lord King of Aragon had an order proclaimed that every man should follow his banner, and that, on pain of death, no man should attack until his banner went to the attack and the trumpets and nakers were sounded. So everyone collected round the banner of the Lord King.

When the King of France was ready and his van was passing through Perthus, the Lord King of Aragon let them pass, but his followers all cried: "Let us attack, Lord; let us attack!" But the Lord King kept them back, and would not have it on any account. And then came the Oriflamme with the King of France and his brother, and with the body of their father; and they proceeded to pass through the said village of Perthus. And so likewise then the followers of the Lord King of Aragon cried in a loud voice: "Lord, for shame! Lord, let us attack!" But the Lord King held them back still, until the King of France had passed, and those who went with him near the Oriflamme.

But when the pack-mules and the lesser people began to pass, do not imagine that, when the

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followers of the Lord King saw it, the Lord King or another could hold them back; so that a cry went through the host of the Lord King of Aragon: "At them! At them!" and then every man rushed upon the Frenchmen, and you would have seen breaking of coffers and plundering of tents and of goods, and of gold and silver and coin and dishes and such riches that every man who was there became wealthy. It was well for the Frenchmen who passed first, for, of the pack-mules of the men afoot, or of the knights of the rear not one escaped, but all were killed and the goods plundered.

The King of France and his followers went over a pass which is above a sloping bank beyond Perthus. They saw the Lord King of Mallorca with his chivalry and many men afoot. The King of France went towards him, and they embraced and kissed. And all went on, and the shouts and cries of the followers of the Lord King of Aragon were so great in the mountains that all the world seemed crumbling. The Frenchmen went on at a good trot, where they could trot, until they had passed La Clusa, for none thought himself safe until they were at Boulou. Next day the King of France and his brother, with the King of Mallorca, went to Perpignan, and there the King of Mallorca entertained them for eight days. And a procession went out every day for the obsequies of the body of the King of France, and, night and day, as long as they were on his territory, the Lord King of Mallorca had a thousand big wax tapers burning at his expense. Indeed, he showed

THE FEAST AT BARCELONA

so much honour to the body of the King of France and to his sons and all who were with him that the House of France should for ever be greatly beholden to him.

When they had been at Perpignan eight days they went on in such a condition that, of their number, not ten in a hundred escaped; the others all died of diseases and illnesses.

When the Oriflamme had passed and the followers of the Lord King of Aragon had killed or taken all those who had remained behind and had obtained a world of riches, the Lord King returned to Peralada, and ordered and repaired the town, and made every man return to it, and granted them many gifts and favours; and then he, with the Lord Infante Alfonso, went to Barcelona, where a great feast was made for him; none like it had ever been made in any city, and it lasted eight days.

When the feast was over the Lord King purposed to go to the Kingdom of Valencia, and, when he was on his way, as he rose very early one morning he caught cold, and with this cold came a burning fever, so that he suffered much. Two days later the illness grew worse, and all one day and night he suffered much anguish, and next day, as it pleased Our Lord God, he passed from this life.

As he lay ill he had sent for his clerk, with whom he transacted his secret affairs, and had made his will, well and in regular form. He left the Kingdom of Aragon to his eldest son, the Lord Infante Alfonso; and to the Lord Infante Jaime, his other son, he

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left the Kingdom of Sicily, which the Lord Infante had ruled for King En Pedro ever since King Charles and his men had been driven out of the island. And his brother, the Lord Infante Fadrique was with him in Sicily.

The Lord King Alfonso was crowned amid great rejoicings and a great feast, but not long after he fell ill. He did not, however, refrain from dagger throwing, nor from martial exercises, for he was bolder in feats of arms than anyone in the world. And so, as he neglected this illness, fever supervened, and he grew worse so that he died in the year of Our Lord 1291, on the eighteenth of June. And if ever you saw great mourning in a city it was then, from those who had lost a good lord.

CHAPTER XVI

OF THE GREAT BATTLES FOUGHT BY EN ROGER DE LURIA AND
HOW HE BESIEGED NAPLES AND THE LORD KING EN JAIME
HELD GAETA BESIEGED AND HOW A TRUCE WAS SIGNED.

THE Lord King En Pedro had given the island of Jerba, off the coast of Tunis, to the admiral En Roger de Luria and also fine and important castles and villages in the Kingdom of Valencia; and so the admiral was cheerful and content for many reasons. No man could have been more cheerful were it not for the death of the Lord King En Pedro, which grieved him much.

You have heard already how he took leave of the Lord King En Alfonso and embarked to return to Sicily. He went along the coast of Barbary, and, as he went along, he sacked villages and took ships and small boats, and, as he took them, he sent them to Valencia. He went thus coasting along Barbary until he came to Jerba, and he settled and ordered the island, and raided all Ris which is on the mainland.

When he had refreshed his followers he shaped his course for Tolmetta and took the city. Then he went to Crete and to Romania and to the Morea, and to Corfu, and everywhere he took many ships and small boats and barges, and he pillaged and sacked and burnt towns and villages. And then

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he set his course for Apulia and landed at Brindisi; and there he thought he had been betrayed, for on the day before his arrival a great number of French chivalry had entered the city to guard it and the district, for fear of En Berenguer de Entenza, his brother-in-law, who was holding Otranto and was raiding all that country.

When the admiral had landed with all his followers, the French chivalry issued forth; and the admiral, seeing so much chivalry (for there were full seven hundred horsemen), thought he had been betrayed. However, he collected his followers and attacked the Frenchmen so strenuously that he made them turn back towards the city, so that the pursuit went as far as the bridge of Brindisi, and there might you have seen knightly feats of arms on both sides. The almugavars, who saw this press, and that the French held their own so strongly, broke their lances short, and went amongst the enemy and proceeded to hamstring horses and kill knights. They took the bridge from the French and would have entered the city with them had it not been that the admiral's horse was killed, and when they tried to raise up the admiral you might have seen blows of darts and lances, and, on the side of the French, blows of bordons. In spite of the enemy, they raised up the admiral, and one of the knights dismounted and gave him his horse. And when the admiral was mounted, then might you have seen strenuous fighting. In the end, the admiral's men took the bridge again from the French

THE KING AND BARONS

and would have entered with them had they not closed the gates.

So the admiral returned to the galleys, cheerful and content, and they searched the field and found that altogether they had killed four hundred knights and innumerable men afoot; and every man had plenty of booty. Assuredly, King Charles had to send reinforcements, for, of those who were left, En Berenguer de Entenza and those who were with him in the city of Otranto need have no fear.

After the admiral had returned to Messina, one day the Lord King En Jaime called him, and all his council, and said: "Barons, We have been thinking that it would be well done if We equipped eighty galleys and if We, with a thousand armed horse and thirty thousand almugavars, marched against Naples. If We can take Naples, We should then go and besiege Gaeta, for if We could take the city of Gaeta it would be worth even more to Us than Naples.

The admiral and the others praised this enterprise much, so that they at once ordained all they needed for it; and soon after the Lord King passed into Calabria with all his followers. The admiral had all the galleys and other vessels collected, and, with all the fleet, went to Calabria, where he found the Lord King and all his host.

When King Charles heard of the preparations made in Sicily he thought at once that they were made against his Kingdom of Naples. (And this King Charles was the son of King Charles who had

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killed King Manfred.) The Count of Artois, his cousin, and many other barons who were for King Charles came, with all their forces, to Naples and Salerno, and there was much chivalry, for the Pope had sent great succour in men and money. They so reinforced these two cities that they could not be taken till all had been killed.

The Lord King of Sicily steered for Salerno, and there might you have seen a great cry of alarm, so that it seemed that all the world was crumbling. The admiral beached the ships, poop foremost, on the shelving rocks which are before the city. And there the cross-bows did much damage, and they stopped there all that day and night. On the following day, departing from Salerno, they sailed along the coast and steered for Naples.

At Naples you might have seen ringing of bells, and chivalry issue forth; it was marvellous what a number of people went to the seashore. Nevertheless, there were not so many people nor knights that the admiral did not take away whatever ships and barges there were in the port. He remained before the city three days, and then he came to Gaeta. There he landed all the horses and all his followers, and besieged the city by sea and by land and erected four catapults which shot into the city all day. Assuredly, he would have taken it, but, two days before he came to the city, full two thousand horsemen of King Charles had entered it, and so they held it strongly. The siege was very close and so distressed the city that they within

SIEGE OF GAETA

had plenty of ill-fortune. Besides, they of the King of Sicily overran all that country every day, and penetrated inland three or four marches, and made the most royal raids of the world.

Meanwhile King Charles had gone to France and had an interview with the King of France and asked him for succour of chivalry, because he had heard that the King of Sicily was holding Gaeta besieged. The King of France gave him all the succour and aid he asked, as well of men as of money, and so he departed with much French chivalry, and went to the Pope and asked him likewise for succour, and the Pope did all he asked. With all these forces he came before Gaeta and there came to him his eldest son, Charles Martel, with great forces, so that there were so many followers their number was infinite. However, the Lord King of Sicily would have offered them battle had the admiral and the other barons who were with him consented. But they did not consent on any account, rather they threw up strong fortifications where they were at the siege.

King Charles besieged the Lord King of Sicily, and, in the same manner, the Lord King was holding Gaeta besieged and discharged catapults into the city, and, likewise, the city cast at the Lord King.

This lasted a long time. King Charles saw that this matter turned greatly to his hurt, and that in the end the Lord King of Sicily would take the city, and, if he had the city, all the Principality would be lost. So he sent messengers to the Lord

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King and asked for a truce, and he informed him by his letter that he asked him for a truce, because it was against his conscience to be thus opposed to him, for he had promised and sworn to the Lord King of Aragon that he would endeavour to establish peace and love between them. What he had promised he wished to fulfil, and peace would be much better discussed during a truce than during war.

When the Lord King of Sicily heard this letter, which King Charles had sent him, he knew that it was the truth he was telling him, for he knew the great worth of King Charles; he knew that he would endeavour to establish peace and love, therefore he consented to the truce. So it was agreed to, in such manner that King Charles should depart, and then the Lord King of Sicily would embark with all he had at the siege. And so it was fulfilled; King Charles went to Naples with all his host, and then the Lord King of Sicily embarked at his convenience and came to Messina, and the admiral dismantled the galleys.

CHAPTER XVII

HOW THE LORD KING EN JAIME WAS CROWNED AT SARAGOSSA AND LEFT THE LORD INFANTE FADRIQUE AS GOVERNOR OF SICILY AND HOW EN ROGER DE LURIA HAD A PLATFORM SET UP FOR JOUSTS AT CALATAYUD AND HOW EN BERENGUER DE ANGUERA WAS WOUNDED.

AFTER the Lord King En Alfonso had died and his body had been buried, four galleys were equipped, and the Count of Ampurias and other nobles and knights and citizens were elected to go to Sicily to fetch the Lord King En Jaime, to whom he had left the kingdom.

Soon the Count of Ampurias, and the others who were going with him, had embarked; and they went, now with one wind, now with another, now rowing, now sailing, so that in a short time they landed at Trapani, and they heard that the Lord King En Jaime and the Lord Infante En Fadrique were at Messina. So they sailed to Messina without unfurling a banner, and there they landed; and when they were before the Lord King and the Lord Infante, the Count told them the death of the Lord King of Aragon. If ever you saw mourning and weeping it was there.

For two days the great mourning lasted and, after these two days, the Count and the other messengers who had come requested the Lord King that it

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might please him to go to Catalonia and take possession of his dominions. The Lord King answered that he was ready to go, but that he would set in order the island of Sicily and all the other territory in the way they should be left, and then he would go. He summoned the nobles and knights and the syndics of the towns, and spoke many good words to them, and commanded them to hold, as head and chief and lord, the Infante En Fadrique, his brother, as if it were himself, and they at once promised him this.

Then he took leave of them all and left the Lord Infante En Fadrique as Governor of all the Kingdom of Sicily. He embarked with the Count of Ampurias and the other ambassadors. They put out to sea and had fine weather, and in a few days they came to Barcelona, and there they landed. And in due time the Lord King En Jaime was crowned at Saragossa.

When the feast of the coronation was over an interview was arranged between the Lord King of Aragon and the King of Castile, and all endeavoured to come to the interview as splendidly as they could. The Lord King begged King Don Sancho and the Queen to come to Calatayud. So they came, and the Lord King entertained them and all who were with them from the day they entered Aragon until the day they left it to return to Castile. The feast made every day was so great that it was a marvel to behold. The kings stayed twelve days together at Calatayud.

THE JOUST

The admiral of the Lord King, En Roger de Luria, was at Calatayud with the Lord King of Aragon. He was the most renowned admiral in the world, and the Castilians were asking everyone: "Which is the admiral of the King of Aragon to whom God has shown so much favour?" And he was pointed out to them, with a hundred or two hundred knights following him; they never tired of gazing. The admiral, in honour of the King and Queen of Castile, had a round table announced and set up a platform for jousts, and had a wooden castle made at the top of the lists, from which he would issue at the approach of a knight.

On the first day of the round table he, all alone, wished to hold the castle against any man who wished to break a lance. The Lord King of Aragon was there, and the King of Castile, and the Infante Don Juan, brother of the King of Castile, and many barons from all the territories and dominions of Castile, and nobles of Aragon and Catalonia and of the Kingdom of Valencia, and also from Gascony, and many other people who had come to see the jousts, and especially to see what the admiral would do, for all the world was speaking of him. All that plain of Calatayud, where the round table was held, was full of people.

When the Kings and all the people were assembled there came a Knight Challenger, very beautifully arrayed and with a fine countenance, ready for a joust. As soon as they of the wooden castle saw him, they sounded a trumpet, and at once the

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admiral issued out of the castle, likewise finely and nobly arrayed, and he looked a very handsome knight. The Knight Challenger was En Berenguer de Anguera, of the city of Murcia, who was very brave and bold, and one of the handsomest knights of Spain; he was of the company of the King of Castile, and tall and stately and well made. And this I can tell you likewise of the admiral, who was one of the best riders and handsomest knights of the world.

The umpires brought two very large staves to En Berenguer de Anguera, and he took the one he liked, and the other they gave to the admiral. Then the umpires placed themselves in the middle of the sheet and gave the signal to each to advance, and they prepared to advance against each other. He who saw these two knights advance may well say that they were knights of great valour, for never could knights advance better according to what was suitable to each, nor in more manly fashion.

En Berenguer hit the admiral so great a blow in the front quarter of the shield that the stave came to pieces, and the admiral so hit him on the visor that the helmet flew off his head to a distance greater than the length of two lance staves, and the stave broke into more than a hundred pieces. As the visor was hit the helmet came down so hard on the face of En Berenguer that it crushed his nose, so that it has never been straight since. The blood was flowing down the middle of his face and between his eyebrows so that everyone thought



The Admiral hit him on the visor.

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he was killed. However, he was so good a knight that, though he received so great a blow, he was nothing daunted. Both Kings, who loved him much, ran to him, fearing he was killed when they saw him all covered with blood and his nose all cut and crushed. They asked him how he felt, and he said that he felt well, that he was not hurt; but they commanded the round table should be stopped, for they did not wish more to be done, for fear a quarrel should ensue.

So the admiral, in his armour, returned to his lodging with his trumpets and nakers, and all the people followed him, Castilians as well as others, and said he was well worthy of the favour God had shown him in many places; that he was one of the most accomplished knights of the world; and so this triumph was his, and a fame which spread through the land of Castile.

CHAPTER XVIII

HOW KING FERNANDO OF CASTILE DEFIED THE LORD KING EN JAIME AND HOW KING EN JAIME INVADED THE KINGDOM OF MURCIA AND HOW PEACE WAS SIGNED WITH CASTILE AND HOW THE TWO KINGS RESOLVED TO ATTACK THE SARACENS AND THE SARACENS WERE VANQUISHED AND A TRUCE SIGNED WITH THE KING OF GRANADA.

KING Sancho returned to Castile and soon after he died, and his son, King Fernando, reigned in his stead, and, being ill-advised, defied the Lord King of Aragon. When the Lord King considered in his heart the challenge the King of Castile had sent him, he felt it a great insult, and said it was necessary to make him repent of it. He commanded the Lord Infante En Pedro, his brother, to get ready with a thousand armed horse and fifty thousand almugavars, and to invade Castile; and he himself would invade the Kingdom of Murcia, which belonged to King Fernando, with a great force. As the Lord King had commanded, so it was done. The Lord Infante entered full nine days' journey into Castile, and besieged the city of Leon and discharged catapults against it; and the Lord King invaded the Kingdom of Murcia and entered it by land and sea.

The first place to which he came was Alicante, and he attacked the town and took it, and then he went up to the castle, which is one of the fine castles

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of the world, and proceeded to attack it so vigorously that he, in person, went up the mountain on foot with many knights as far as the gate of the castle. At a short distance from the gate there was a piece of the wall which had fallen in and, through that place, they invaded the castle by assault, and assuredly the Lord King would have been the first there had it not been for a good and expert knight of Catalonia, who pulled him back and cried: "Ah, Lord, what is this? Let us go in first."

But the Lord King did not listen to him, rather he went on. The knight leaped forward, and another knight with him, and entered the castle, and those within defended themselves so that, assuredly, these two knights would have been killed if it had not been for the Lord King, who, sword in hand and his shield on his arm, leaped inside; and so he was the third to enter.

When the Lord King was within and the two knights saw him so near, they exerted themselves to the utmost. The Lord King held his shield in front of himself, and a knight of the castle, who was big and brave, hurled his spear at him and gave him so great a blow on the first quarter of the shield that it penetrated it for more than half a palm. The Lord King, who was young and spirited, advanced and gave him such a blow with his sword in the middle of his head that the cap of mail he was wearing was of no use to him and he fell dead to the ground. The Lord King, with

PEACE WITH ARAGON

his own hand, despatched five men in this place. All the castle was taken.

Then the Lord King went on and took many places, and he took the city of Murcia and the greater part of the kingdom, and garrisoned the land and left as Governor the noble En Jaime Pedro and much good chivalry.

The Lord Infante En Pedro of Castile and others saw that the war with Aragon did them no good, and they negotiated a peace with the Lord King of Aragon, and peace was agreed to and signed.

Then the Lord King En Jaime thought that, as he was at peace with all peoples, he would attack the Saracens—namely, the King of Granada, who had broken the truce he had signed; therefore he wished to take a complete revenge for this. He arranged with the King of Castile that they should march resolutely against the King of Granada in this manner: that the King of Castile, with all his power, should go and besiege Alcira, and the Lord King of Aragon should go and besiege the city of Almeria. And so it was ordained and promised by both kings that this should be done on a fixed day, and that neither should abandon the war nor his siege without the leave of the other. This was wisely ordained in order that the King of Granada should be obliged to divide his followers in two parts.

And so it was done: the King of Castile went to besiege Alcira, and the Lord King of Aragon, Almeria, which is a very fine city. The siege lasted

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full nine months; the Lord King conducted it with catapults, and with mangonels and with all the apparel belonging to a siege. He came to it very powerfully apparelled, with many Catalan and Aragonese nobles.

It happened one day, on the eve of Saint Bartholomew, that the Saracens had all got ready, all that were in the Kingdom of Granada, against the Lord King of Aragon, through the fault of the King of Castile, who raised the siege he was conducting without letting the Lord King of Aragon know anything about it. It was a great crime of the King of Castile not to let the Lord King of Aragon know he was raising the siege, for it put the Lord King into great hazard; he was surprised by so many people who came upon him, a thing he had not expected.

But he was nothing dismayed by it, but ordained that the Lord Infante En Ferrando, his cousin, should stay with his company near the city, at a place called the *esperonte* of Almeria, in order that if anyone should attempt to issue from the city to attack the besiegers whilst he was fighting the Saracens, the Lord Infante should prevent it. And I wish you to know that the *esperonte* was the most threatened point there was.

When the Lord King was ready with all his host to attack the host of the Saracens, there came out of Almeria, by the *esperonte*, a son of the King of Guadix, with full three hundred horsemen and many afoot, wading through the sea, with water up to

THE INFANTE OF THE SARACENS

the horses' girths. The cry of alarm arose in the tents of the Lord Infante, and he, very handsomely arrayed, issued forth with all his chivalry in very good order. When the Saracens had passed the *esperonte* this son of the Moorish King, who was an expert knight and one of the handsomest of the world, came on first, with a javelin in his hand, crying:

"Ani be ha Soltan!" No other words issued from his mouth.

The Lord Infante asked: "What is he saying?" And the interpreters near him said: "My Lord, he says that he is a king's son."

Said the Lord Infante: "He is a king's son, and so, too, am I."

And he rushed towards him and, before he could get near him, he had killed more than six Saracen knights with his own hand and had broken his lance. He seized his sword and, sword in hand, made room for himself, until he came to him who was shouting that he was a king's son. And he, seeing him come, and knowing that he was the Infante, came towards him and gave him such a blow with his sword that the last quarter of the Infante's shield fell to the ground (and it was a most marvellous blow), and he cried: "Ani ben ha Soltan!" But the Lord Infante gave him such a blow with his sword on the head that he cut it open, and he fell dead to the ground. At once the Saracens were discomfited, and those who could return by the *esperonte* saved their lives, but the

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others all died, and so the Lord Infante overcame those of the city.

The van attacked amongst the Saracens and vanquished them. Assuredly, the Saracens would have lost all their chivalry on that day had it not been that the pursuit had to stop, for fear that others might come and attack the besiegers from the other side. Nevertheless, innumerable Saracens died that day, horse and foot; it was the greatest feat and the greatest victory. From that day the Saracens so feared the Christians that they dared not resist them.

When the King of Granada saw the marvellous deed performed by the Lord King of Aragon and his followers, he held himself for lost, for he had not thought at all that there was so much strenuousness and so much valour in them. So he chose his messengers, whom to send to the Lord King of Aragon, to tell him that he begged him to raise the siege, for winter was coming upon him; that he might see well that he was working for people in whom he would find no merit; that the Castilians had raised the siege of Alcira in order that the King of Aragon and his followers should be killed; and so he begged him to be pleased to make a truce with him. And he offered always to support him in war against all men, and again that, for love of him, he would liberate all the Christian captives he had, which was a considerable matter.

The Lord King called his council together and put before them what the King of Granada had

THE KING RETURNS

sent to tell him, and in the end the advice was that, for three reasons especially, he should return to his country. The first reason was that winter was coming upon him; the other was the great ingratitude the Castilians had shown him; and the third was the surrendering of the Christian captives, which was a greater thing than if he had taken two cities of Almeria. And so it was agreed and the truce confirmed.

The Lord King had all his followers collected with all their property, and all returned, some by sea and some by land, to the Kingdom of Valencia.

CHAPTER XIX

HOW THE LORD KING EN JAIME MADE A TREATY WITH THE POPE AND GAVE HIM THE KINGDOM OF SICILY AND THE POPE GAVE HIM SARDINIA AND CORSICA AND HOW THE SICILIANS MADE THE INFANTE EN FADRIQUE KING AND HOW THE CITY OF CATANIA SURRENDERED TO DUKE ROBERT AND HOW THREE FRENCH BARONS FOUGHT FOR KING CHARLES AND WERE KILLED.

WHEN the Lord King En Jaime had settled all his affairs concerning Castile; and settled likewise all his country, and was at Barcelona, he bethought himself of Sicily, and he made a treaty with the Pope and gave up to him the Kingdom of Sicily, and the Pope gave him Sardinia and Corsica in exchange. But the Lord King was not bound to surrender Sicily in person; he was to abandon it, and the Pope would take possession of it if he wished.

The Lord King of Aragon sent messengers to Sicily, to the Justicia and to the Portreeve and to the others in authority, to tell them to abandon castles and towns and all other places in Sicily and Calabria and the other parts of the dominion.

So they of the Council and the barons and knights and citizens knew how the Lord King had forsaken them, and they said to the Lord Infante En Fadrique that he should seize all the land, for the island of Sicily and all the kingdom were entailed on him,

CASTLES ARE SEIZED

according to the testament of the Lord King En Pedro, his father. If the Lord King En Jaime had abandoned it, he had abandoned solely his own right in it. This was agreed to by all, and they found from learned men that he might with justice seize what the Lord King, his father, had entailed on him.

Upon this the Lord Infante En Fadrique sent throughout Sicily and Calabria and the other places of the dominions and seized the castles and towns and villages, and a day was assigned on which all the chiefs and knights and syndics of towns should be at Palermo; for he wished to be crowned king, and wished all to swear fealty to him.

On the day assigned they were at Palermo, and there was a great gathering of Catalans and Aragonese and Latins, and of men of Calabria and other places of the kingdom. All were assembled at the royal palace, and all raised their voices together and shouted: "God grant life to our Lord, King Fadrique, Lord of Sicily and all the Kingdom." And all the barons rose and rendered oath and homage to him, and, after them, all the knights and citizens. When this was done, at once, with great ceremony, according to custom, they went to the cathedral, and with a solemn blessing he received the crown.

And so, with the crown on his head and the orb in his right hand and the sceptre in his left, in royal vesture, he rode from the cathedral to the palace, and the greatest sports and diversions were made

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that were ever made at the coronation of a king. The feast lasted fifteen days, during which no man did anything but divert himself and dance and sing and take part in games. All the time the tables were laid at the palace for everyone who wished to dine there. Then, when all this was over and everyone had returned to his home, the Lord King went visiting throughout his dominions.

The Lord King was not altogether at peace. Duke Robert, eldest son of King Charles, was in Sicily, in the city of Catania; Sir Virgili of Naples and two knights of Naples had surrendered the city, and other places as well had been surrendered to him. Thus the war was very great in Sicily. The Duke had a great force of chivalry—he had full three thousand horse—and the Lord King of Sicily had not more than a thousand Catalans and Aragonese, but they of the Lord King gained victories over the others every day.

It happened that three barons of France came to Sicily in aid of King Charles, to avenge the death of their kinsmen, who had been killed in the war in Sicily in the time of King Jaime. These three barons brought with them three hundred knights, all select knights, who were of the best of France and called themselves the Knights of Death. They came to Catania with the wish and intention of meeting the noble En Guillermo de Galceran, Count of Catanzaro, and Don Blasco de Alagon, who were of the side of the Lord King of Sicily. When they came to Catania everyone called them

“ AWAKENING THE IRON ”

the Knights of Death, the name they had given themselves.

They heard one day that Count Galceran and Don Blasco were in a castle called Gagliano; and all three hundred knights, very handsomely arrayed, and others who came to accompany them, went to Gagliano. Count Galceran and Don Blasco knew this, that they had come to the plain of Gagliano, and they reviewed their followers and found that they had not more than two hundred horsemen and about three hundred afoot; but they agreed that they would offer battle at all costs, and at dawn of day they issued out of Gagliano in order of battle, trumpets and nakers sounding. The Knights of Death also, when they saw them, inquired into what forces they had, and found that they were full five hundred horsemen, good men, and many afoot, of their own country.

When the hosts saw each other the almugavars of Count Galceran and Don Blasco, all together, as they were accustomed to do, hit their lances and darts against stones, crying: “ Awake the iron !” They all struck sparks, so that it seemed as if all the world were ablaze, and especially as it was not yet daylight. The French, who saw this, wondered and asked what it meant, and knights who were there and had met almugavars in Calabria in feats of arms, told them that this was a custom of the almugavars, who always, on going into battle, awake the iron.

In order of battle the hosts advanced against each

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other. Count Galceran and Don Blasco had not formed a van and rear, but, all collected together, the chivalry on the left and the almugavars on the right, attacked the van of the others in such manner that it seemed all the world was crumbling. The battle was very cruel; the almugavars hurled the darts so that it was devil's work what they did, for at the first charge more than a hundred knights and horses of the French fell dead to the ground. Then the almugavars broke their lances short and disembowelled horses, and they went about amongst them as if they were walking in a garden. And Count Galceran and Don Blasco went at the banners of the French in such manner that they threw them all to the ground, and then might you see feats of arms, and blows given and taken, for there never was so cruel a battle between so few people. This lasted until midday; no man could know who was having the best of it, had it not been for the banners of the French, which were all cut down except that of the Count of Brienne, who raised his up when the bearer was killed, and entrusted it to another knight.

When the Catalans and Aragonese saw that the others held out so well, a cry arose amongst them. They shouted, "Aragon! Aragon!" and this name inflamed all, and they attacked so vigorously that it was the greatest marvel of the world. So, of the French, there were no more than eighty knights left, and they went up a hill, and there Count Galceran and Don Blasco attacked them. All

FRENCHMEN CAPTURED

kept the name they had brought from France: they had called themselves Knights of Death, and all died. Of all three hundred, and also of those who accompanied them, there escaped not more than five men on light horses. They were from Catania and were going with the French as guides.

When all the French were dead the company of Count Galceran and Don Blasco searched the field, and they inquired into how many men they had lost, and found that they had lost about twenty-two horse and thirty-four foot. And so, cheerful and content, when they had searched the field, they entered Gagliano, and there and into Traina they put the wounded and had them well provided for. When the news came to the Lord King of Sicily he had great pleasure in it, he and all who wished him well.

On the fourth day after the battle Count Galceran and Don Blasco went out to reconnoitre, and made a great capture of Frenchmen who had come from Catania to the wood for grass and wood. There were there full two hundred French knights who had come to guard the pack-mules, and who were all killed or taken. There was mourning in Catania for the killing of the Knights of Death, and so likewise King Charles and the Pope had great grief thereat when they knew of it.

The Pope said: "We have achieved nothing; it seems to Us that this man will defend Sicily against Us as well as his father and his brother have done; and, although he is but a youth, he shows from what

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House he is issued. Wherefore I believe that, in the end, if We do not win him by a peace, We shall have nothing but damage through him."

He sent his messengers to King Fadrique, and in the end peace was signed on both sides.

CHAPTER XX

HOW KING CHARLES SENT HIS SON THE PRINCE OF TARANTO
TO JOIN DUKE ROBERT AND HOW THE PRINCE DISOBEYING
THE KING'S ORDERS WAS TAKEN PRISONER.

WHEN King Charles had news of Sicily he made his son, the Prince of Taranto, get ready at Naples, and gave him full twelve hundred armed horse—between French and Provençals and Neapolitans, all select people; and he had fifty galleys equipped, all with open decks. They embarked, and King Charles commanded his son, the Prince, to go, at all costs, straight to the shore of Cape Orlando, to the castle of San Marco. It was better he should land there in safety, on their own territory, than that he should collect a host for himself in another place. There, there was great chivalry of Duke Robert, who would be with him at once, and from that place he could at any time go to Catania through country that was held for them. Assuredly, King Charles spoke wisely to him who should have believed him, but the young man sometimes did not conform willingly to wisdom, rather followed more his own will.

So the Prince, with all the followers, took leave of his father and embarked at Naples and steered for Trapani. See how they remembered what King Charles had said to them! They all said to the

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Prince: " Lord, let us land as far from the Duke as we can, and then, with banner unfurled, we shall go to Catania, ravaging and burning all we meet. It would be a shame for you to join the Duke at once, it would seem that you dare not do anything for yourself."

And the Prince accepted this advice, not remembering what King Charles had commanded him to do, and so he went to Trapani. The men on land, who were on the lookout, saw that they were steering for Trapani, and at once sent a message to the Lord King of Sicily, who was at the centre of the island, so that he could at once hasten here or there. When he knew that the Prince was steering for Trapani he sent to his barons throughout all Sicily to join him.

The Prince had such fine weather that, before the Lord King had assembled all his followers, he had landed between Trapani and Mazzara, and had put the horses and all his followers ashore, and came to Trapani and attacked it. He could do nothing against it, rather took damage himself; so he left and went to Mazzara. But the Lord King was there first, with the people he had with him— namely, seven hundred armed horse and three thousand almugavars. Count Galceran and Don Blasco and En Berenguer de Entenza and many other accomplished knights were with the Lord King.

When the hosts came within sight of each other each was put in order of battle. Count Galceran and Don Blasco and En Moncada commanded the

THE PRINCE AND THE KING

van of the Lord King; they put the foot-soldiers on the right and the chivalry on the left. When the almugavars saw that they were about to attack they all cried, "Awake the iron!" and all struck the iron of their lances on the ground; it seemed like great illuminations, at which they of the Prince's host were much alarmed when they knew the meaning of it as the Knights of Death had known it.

With that the two vans approached each other and proceeded to attack vigorously; it was wonderful. When the van of the Lord King had attacked, the Lord King, who was beautifully arrayed on a good horse, and who was a young man and accomplished in arms and valiant, would wait no longer; rather he went straight to where the banner of the Prince was, and attacked so vigorously that he, in person, gave the standard-bearer such a thrust with his lance that he threw him and the banner in a heap on the ground. And then might you see feats of arms.

The Prince, likewise, was tall and handsome and a young man, and one of the most accomplished knights of the world, so that what he and the Lord King in person did was marvellous. The Prince wanted to raise his banner, and all the good chivalry of both sides collected round it, and the Lord King did not leave the press, rather strove to prevent the banner of the Prince being raised up. In that press the Lord King met the Prince, and they recognized each other, and both rejoiced, and then

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might you see the two fight hand to hand ; assuredly, each might say he had found his match. They fought so hard, each plied on the other every weapon he had ; but, in the end, the Lord King gave such a blow of his mace on the head of the Prince's horse that he made it senseless and it fell to the ground.

As soon as the Prince had fallen a knight dismounted, for he knew that it was the Prince, and he wanted to kill him. But the Lord King cried : " No, he shall not die !" Don Blasco came up and cried : " Kill him." But the Lord King again cried : " No." He wished to dismount, and then En Martin de Aros cried : " Lord, do not dismount ; I will guard him ; he shall not be killed as you do not wish it."

When the Prince knew that the Lord King, with whom he had fought so hard, was still there, he surrendered to him, and the Lord King entrusted him to En Martin de Aros and his brother and to En Garcia de Ayvar. When he had thus entrusted him he went about the battlefield, mace in hand, wherever he saw the greatest press, and performed so many deeds of arms that everyone could know he was the son of good King En Pedro and grandson of good King En Jaime.

He went about the field of battle, killing knights and knocking down horses, as a lion goes about among cattle. Of the almugavars I can tell you the deed of one, called Porcell, who was afterwards of my company in Romania. He gave such a cut with his coutel to a French knight that the greaves

END OF THE BATTLE

with the leg came off in one piece and, besides, it entered half a palm into the horse's flank. Of the darts it is needless to say anything; there was one which passed through a knight who was attacking from behind his shield, passing through the shield and the armed knight.

And so the battle was won and all the followers of the Prince who were on the ground were killed or taken prisoners.

When the battle had been won the Lord King said that bread and wine should be brought—for he wished to remain on the field all that day—and that his followers should collect the booty, and that every man should keep what he had gained. He wished to have nothing besides the Prince and all banner lords who were prisoners; the other prisoners should belong to those who had taken them. And so great refreshment came to the field, and every man ate and drank his fill. The Lord King had his own tents pitched, and there he dined with all his nobles. And likewise he made the Prince rest in a beautiful tent, and they took off his armour and sent for the physicians of the Lord King to mend a great wound in his face and other wounds.

That day they all rested on the field of battle in the tents, and the followers collected the booty; there was no one who had not an infinity of gain. At night the Lord King, joyous and content, with all the host and with the Prince and all the other prisoners, entered Trapani, and there they stayed four days; and then the Lord King ordered the

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Prince to be taken to the castle of Cefalu, and there he was well guarded and well provided for. The nobles who were prisoners he distributed amongst the castles and entrusted them to divers knights.

The Prince was taken to Cefalu by short journeys and such a guard was ordained for him as was suitable for such a lord, and when all this was done the Lord King and the knights returned each to his place on the frontier.

CHAPTER XXI

OF THE MARVELLOUS DEEDS OF ROGER DE FLOR A VALIANT
MAN OF POOR ESTATE WHO ROSE IN A SHORT TIME TO BE
CÆSAR OF THE EMPIRE.

NOW I must speak to you of a valiant man of poor estate, who, by his valour, rose in a short time to a greater station than any man yet born. I wish to tell you about it because his deeds, which follow, were most marvellous and important. What has partly moved me to make this book is the great marvels which have happened through him, and the great Aragonese and Catalan victories there have been in Romania which were begun by him. Of these marvels no one can recount the truth so well as I, who was in Sicily in the time of his prosperity as his procurator-general, and took part in all his affairs, in the most important he undertook by sea and by land. Wherefore you should all the more believe me.

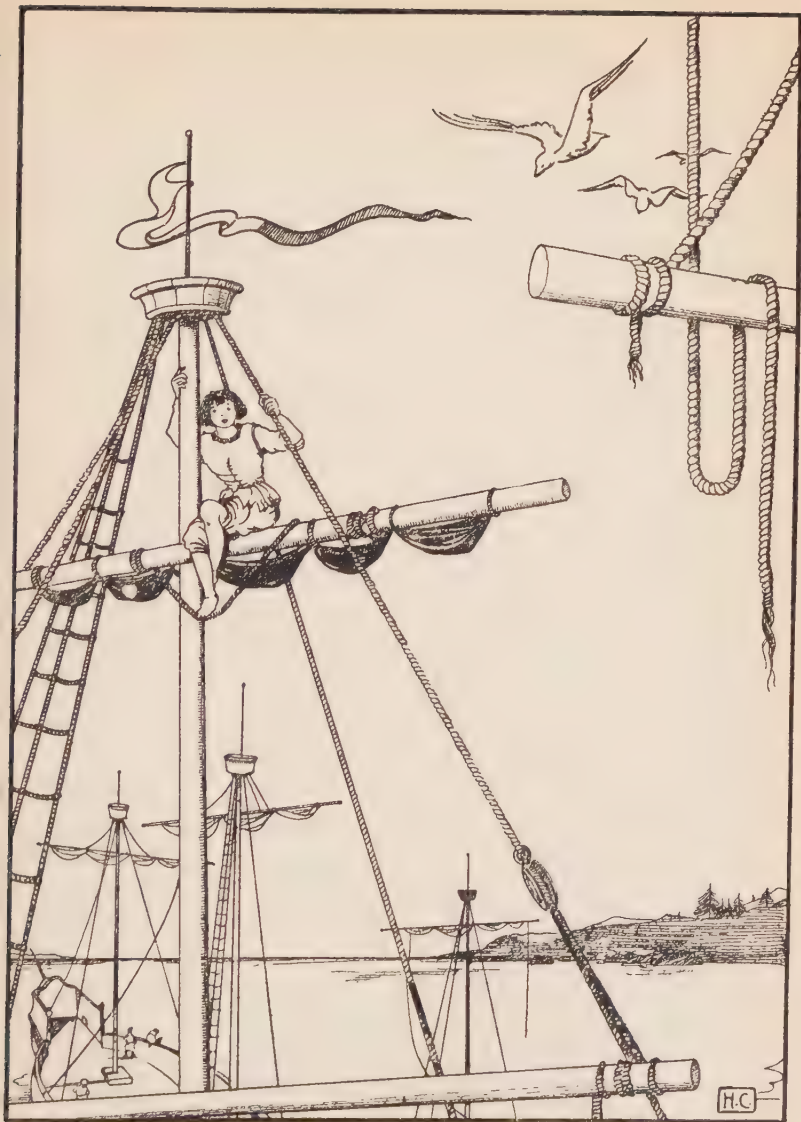
There was a falconer who came to Italy from Germany, and he was a very gallant man, and was called Richard de Flor. He married a damsel, daughter of an honourable man of Brindisi who was a wealthy man, and he became a very rich man. He was expert in arms, and he joined King Manfred and fought against King Charles, and when good King Manfred was killed in battle, as you have

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heard before, Richard de Flor was killed too. He left two sons, the elder of whom was not more than four years old at that time, and the younger, who was called Roger, not more than one. King Charles, when he had seized the kingdom, took for himself everything belonging to all who had been in the battle. There remained nothing to the two boys of Richard but what their mother had brought as her marriage portion; of the rest they were despoiled.

At that time many ships of commercial houses touched at Brindisi, and those of Apulia who wished to take pilgrims and provisions came there to spend the winter, and when the younger boy, Roger, was about eight, it happened that a notable of the Knights Templars, called Frey Vassayll, came with a ship of the Templars to spend a winter at Brindisi. He was commander of the ship and was a good seaman.

He came to have the ship repaired, and whilst it was being repaired the boy Roger ran about the ship and rigging as lightly as if he were a monkey, and all day he was with the sailors, because the house of his mother was near to where the ship was. Frey Vassayll took a liking to the boy; he loved him as if he were his son, and he asked his mother for him and said that, if she gave him up to him, he would do all in his power to get him a good post with the Templars. The mother, as he seemed to her a man of importance, gave the boy up to him willingly.



Roger ran about the ship and rigging like a monkey.

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The boy turned out the most expert boy at sea; he performed marvels of climbing and of all things. When he was fifteen he was considered one of the best mariners of the world, and when he was twenty he was an accomplished mariner in all ways, so that Frey Vassayll let him do as he liked with the ship. The Master of the Templars, seeing him so zealous and expert, made him a Brother Sergeant.

A short time after he had been made a Brother Sergeant the Templars bought a great ship from the Genoese, the greatest that had been built at that time. It was called the *Falcon*, and they gave the command of it to Frey Roger de Flor. In this ship he sailed a long time, showing great knowledge and great valour. This Frey Roger was the most generous man ever born; all he gained he divided and gave to the principal Templars and to many friends he knew how to make.

At the time Acre was lost to the Christians he was in the harbour of Acre with his ship, and brought away ladies and damsels and great treasure and many important people, so that he made infinite gain on that journey, and when he returned he gave much to the Master and to those who were powerful amongst the Templars.

But envious people accused him to the Master, saying that he had a great treasure which had remained to him of the affair of Acre. The Master seized all that he found of his, and then wanted to seize him. But he heard of this and left the ship in the harbour of Marseilles and went to Genoa,

TO MESSINA

where he found Micer Ticino Doria and other friends he had known to make. He borrowed so much from them that he bought a good galley, called *Oliveta*, and fitted it out very well. And he came to Duke Robert at Catania with the galley and offered himself to him to support him with the galley and in person. But Duke Robert did not receive him well, neither in deed nor in words, and so he remained three days without being able to get a favourable answer. On the fourth day he appeared before the Duke and said:

“ Lord, I see it does not please you that I should be in your service, wherefore I commend you to God, and shall go and seek another lord, to whom my service will be pleasing.”

And the Duke answered that he might go and good luck go with him.

He embarked at once and came to Messina, where he found King Fadrique; he appeared before him and offered himself to him as he had done to the Duke. The Lord King received him very graciously and thanked him for his offer, and at once made him a member of his household and assigned to him good and honourable provision; and he and all who had come with him did homage to the King. When he saw the fine and honourable reception the Lord King gave him he was very content.

When he had remained eight days with the Lord King, and had refreshed his followers, he took leave of the Lord King and set his course for Apulia, and he captured a ship of King Charles loaded with

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victuals, which was going to the Duke, to Catania. And at once he manned it with some of his company, and those of the ship he put in the galley, and sent the ship, which was three-decked and loaded with grain and other provisions, to Syracuse.

Afterwards he took full ten barges, likewise loaded with provisions which King Charles was sending to the Duke, and with these barges he came to Syracuse, where there was great lack of provisions. After that he provisioned many other places holding for the Lord King, and the wheat, of which he still had much left, he sold and made much gain. He paid everyone for six months, some in coin and some in victuals, and so he revived everything. He also sent much money to the Lord King and to Count Galceran, and to Don Blasco, and to En Berenguer de Entenza. There was no noble or knight who did not accept his presents. So did he strengthen the Lord King and refresh his followers that one of them was worth as much as two had been before.

The Lord King, seeing his worth, made him Vice-admiral of Sicily, and a member of his council, and gave him two castles in Sicily and the revenues of Malta.

Frey Roger took leave of the Lord King and came to Messina and equipped five galleys and a small boat, and proceeded to scour all the coast of Italy and Provence and Spain and Barbary. Everything he found, belonging to friend or foe, in coin or valuable goods which he could put on board his

SPOIL OF WAR

galleys, he took. To the friends who had lent him money he wrote out a note of his debt and told them that, when peace was made, he would pay them. From enemies he took all of value he found, but left them their small boats and their lives, for he injured nobody's person. And so everyone parted from him satisfied, and he made endless gain in that journey, in gold and silver and valuable goods, as much as the galleys could carry.

With this gain he returned to Sicily and went to Syracuse, and there dismantled his galleys. He sent further pay to the soldiers and likewise sent great refreshment of money to the Lord King and the nobles.

CHAPTER XXII

HOW DUKE ROBERT CAME TO BESIEGE MESSINA AND HOW FREY ROGER RELIEVED THE CITY AND THE DUKE RETURNED TO CATANIA AND PEACE WAS MADE AND HOW KING CHARLES GAVE HIS DAUGHTER IN MARRIAGE TO KING FADRIQUE.

DUKE ROBERT knew that there were not many provisions in Messina, and thought he could reduce the city if he went to Catona with his host; and his fleet, when there, would prevent any barge from entering Messina or Reggio, and so he would carry on two sieges, and especially he would reduce Messina, for no succour could come to it by land.

He came to Messina with all his fleet, which consisted of over a hundred galleys, and he landed and burnt and sacked Rocamadore and Borgo, where the market is held. And then he came to the dock-yard, and there burnt two galleys; the others were successfully defended against him. Every day brought us a great battle, and I can tell you so, for I was at the siege from the first day to the last, and I had my company established from the tower of Santa Clara to the palace of the Lord King. Assuredly, in that place we had to bear more trouble than there was in any other part of the city, for they gave us plenty to do, some by land and some by sea.

THE SIEGE

The Lord King Fadrique made two nobles get ready with seven hundred horsemen, shield on neck, and with two thousand almugavars. One of these nobles was Don Blasco de Alagon, and the other was Count Galceran, and do not believe they wished for anything else, for they all went with their hearts set on it.

They sent us word that in the morning at dawn they would be before Messina, and that we should attack the host of the Duke on one side, and they would attack it on the other. But in the night the Duke heard this, and when it was day he and his host had all passed into Calabria; not one remained, except that they left some tents which they could not strike, for they had been surprised by the dawn.

At dawn Don Blasco and Count Galceran, with all their company in battle array, were on the mountain ready to attack Matagrifon, the castle outside Messina, and they of the city were ready to sally out. But when they looked they found no one, for all had passed to Catona and there established themselves. So Don Blasco and Count Galceran with their company entered Messina, and all were displeased when they found no battle.

However, the siege lasted so long that Messina was on the point of being abandoned because of famine, though the Lord King entered it twice, and each time put in over ten thousand beasts laden with wheat and flour, and much cattle; but all this was as nothing, for wheat brought by land amounts

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to nothing, for the company and the chivalry who accompany it have already eaten much on their way. So the city was greatly distressed.

Frey Roger, who knew this, had six galleys at Syracuse and bought four belonging to Genoese, and so he had ten galleys. He loaded them with wheat and came to Syracuse, and waited for a strong south-east or south wind. When it came it was so strong that all the sea was turmoil; no man who was not so good a mariner would have dared to think of sailing from Syracuse as he did at nightfall. At dawn he was at Boca del Faro. It is the greatest wonder of the world how anything survived at Boca del Faro, for when there happens to be a south-east wind or a south wind the currents are so great and the sea is so high that nothing can hold out. But he, his own galley foremost, proceeded to enter with the large lateen sails drawn up and furled, and the ten galleys entered Messina safe and sound, but there was not a man who had a dry stitch on.

So Messina was revived, and next day the Duke raised the siege and returned to Catania, and he lost all the knights he had through sickness, and of the followers a great part, so that certainly amongst them all they could not make up five hundred horsemen.

King Fadrique considered in his mind that the Duke was his cousin, and when messengers came to him to sue for peace he received them graciously, and peace was made in such way that King Charles

PRINCESS ELEANOR

left the island of Sicily to King Fadrique, and gave him in marriage the Princess Eleanor, his eldest daughter. And King Fadrique abandoned to him all he had in Calabria and in all Italy.

A short time after peace had been made King Charles sent my Lady the Princess with great splendour to Messina, where the Lord King Fadrique was, and there, in Messina, in the church of Santa Maria la Nova, he married her. A crown was placed on her head, and the feast which was made was the greatest ever made in Messina.

CHAPTER XXIII

HOW FREY ROGER SENT MESSENGERS TO THE EMPEROR ANDRONICUS AT CONSTANTINOPLE TO OFFER HIM SUCCOUR AGAINST THE TURKS AND HOW THE EMPEROR MADE FREY ROGER GRAND DUKE OF THE EMPIRE AND HOW THE GRAND DUKE WENT TO CONSTANTINOPLE WITH A GREAT FORCE OF CATALANS.

WHILST the feast was being made for the marriage of King Fadrique, Frey Roger was full of thought, considering what he should do later on. And he thought that it would not do him any good to tarry in Sicily; that as the Lord King was at peace with King Charles and with the Pope, and as King Charles and Duke Robert hated him much, the Master of the Templars might claim him from the Pope. The Lord King would have to do one of two things: either he would have to obey the Pope and deliver him up to him, or begin the war again.

When he had considered all this he went to the Lord King and told him all these matters he had considered, and said to him:

“ Lord, by your leave I shall send two knights to the Emperor Andronicus at Constantinople, and shall let him know that I am ready to go to him with as great a company of horse and foot, all Catalans and Aragonese, as he wishes, and that he should give us pay and all necessaries; that I know

FREY ROGER

he greatly needs succour, for the Turks have taken from him land to the extent of thirty journeys; and he could not do as much with any people as with Catalans and Aragonese, and especially with those who have carried on this war against King Charles."

The Lord King answered: "Frey Roger, you know more in these matters than We do; but it seems to Us that your idea is good, and so ordain what you please. We shall be well satisfied with what you ordain."

Upon this Frey Roger kissed the King's hand and departed from him and went to his lodgings, where he remained all that day arranging matters, and the Lord King and the others attended the feast and the diversions and disportings.

When next day came Frey Roger had a galley equipped, and called two knights whom he trusted, and told them all he had planned and that they should go in the galley to Constantinople, to the Emperor Andronicus. And above all they should there make a treaty by which he would obtain as wife the daughter of the Emperor of the Bulgars, and also that he be made Grand Duke of the Empire. (And Grand Duke is a title which means the same as Prince and Lord over all the soldiers of the Empire, with authority over the admiral; and all the islands of Romania are subject to him, and also all the places on the sea-coasts.) And also that the Emperor give pay for four months to all those he would bring. He gave the knights letters of all this, as well of these matters

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as of all they were to do. I know this as I myself was present at the dictating and ordering of these letters.

When the knights were ready they took leave of Frey Roger, who held the matter for concluded, because his renown was great in the house of the Emperor Andronicus, from the time he was commanding the ship of the Templars called the *Falcon*. At that time he had done many favours to ships of the Emperor which he met at sea, and he knew Greek very well. And likewise he was very renowned in Romania and throughout all the world for the help he had given so freely to the Lord King of Sicily; so he was able to provide himself very fully with followers. Thus En Berenguer de Entenza, with whom he had sworn brotherhood, promised to follow him and En Berenguer de Rocafort and many other Catalan and Aragonese nobles and knights; and of the almugavars full four thousand, all expert, who, from the time of King Pedro until that day, had carried on the war in Sicily. Frey Roger was very cheerful and content

The galley went so fast that in a short time it was at Constantinople, where it found the Emperor Andronicus and his eldest son Skyr Miqueli. When the Emperor heard the message he was very joyous, and received the messengers well, and in the end the matter came to pass as Frey Roger had dictated.

The Emperor sent the charter of title of Grand Duke to Frey Roger in a handsome gold casket,

THE EMBARKATION

signed by him and his son, and he sent him the baton of the office and the banner. The messengers returned to Sicily and found Frey Roger at Alicata, and told him all they had done and gave him the grants of everything, and the baton and the hat and the banner and the seal of the office of Grand Duke. Henceforth he will be called the Grand Duke.

When he had received everything he went to the Lord King, whom he found at Palermo with my Lady the Queen, and he told him all about the matter. The Lord King was very joyous thereat, and at once had ten galleys of the dockyard and two small boats given to the Grand Duke, and had them repaired and fitted out for him. The Grand Duke already had eight of his own, and so he had eighteen and two small boats, and then he freighted three large ships and many barges and more small boats, and he sent word to all parts that everyone who was to go with him should come to Messina. The Lord King assisted everyone as much as he could with money.

So all embarked, with their wives and children, very satisfied with the King; there never was a lord who behaved more liberally to people who had served him than he did. The nobles and knights embarked likewise; there were, between galleys and small boats and ships and barges, thirty-six sail; and there were one thousand five hundred horsemen, fitted out with everything except horses. There were full four thousand almugavars, and full

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a thousand men afoot, without the galley-slaves and seamen who belonged to the shipping. All these were Catalans and Aragonese, and the greater part brought their wives and children.

In a few days they landed at Monemvasia, and there they were shown great honour, and were given great refreshment of all things. They found there an order of the Emperor to go straight to Constantinople, and so they did; they left Monemvasia and went to Constantinople. When they came there the Emperor and his son and all the people received them with great joy and great pleasure. But if these were pleased at their arrival, the Genoese were sorry. They saw well that, if these people remained there, they themselves would lose the power and honour they had in the Empire; that the Emperor had dared to do nothing but what they wished, but that, henceforth, he would despise them.

The wedding of the Grand Duke was celebrated; he took to wife the daughter of the King of the Bulgars, who was the niece of the Emperor and one of the beautiful damsels of the world. It was celebrated with great joy and content.

But whilst the feast was great, some Genoese, by their arrogance, caused a fight with the Catalans; it was a great fight. A wicked man, called Roso de Finar, carried the banner of the Genoese, and came in front of the palace of Blanquerna; and our almugavars and the seamen came out against them, and even the Grand Duke and the nobles and knights

THE GENOESE

could not hold them back. They came out with a royal pennon carried before them, and only about thirty squires and light horse went with them. When they came near each other the thirty squires proceeded to attack; they attacked where the banner was and felled Roso de Finar to the ground, and the almugavars hit out amongst them.

This Roso and over three thousand Genoese were killed there. The Emperor saw all this from his palace and had great joy and content thereat. He said before all: "Now the Genoese, who have always behaved with such arrogance, have found their match; the Catalans were quite in the right, it was the fault of the Genoese."

When the banner of the Genoese was on the ground, and Roso and other important people had been killed, the almugavars wanted to go to Pera, which is a select city of the Genoese, in which are all their treasure and merchandise. But, upon this, when the Emperor saw they were going to plunder Pera, he called to the Grand Duke and said to him: "My son, go to your people and make them turn back. If they sack Pera, the Empire is destroyed, for the Genoese have much of Our property, and of that of the barons and the other people of Our Empire."

At once the Grand Duke mounted a horse, and, mace in hand, with all the nobles and knights who had come with him, he went towards the almugavars, who already were preparing to demolish Pera, and he made them turn back.

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Next day the Emperor ordered all to prepare to proceed to the Straits of Gallipoli and attack the Turks, who, at that place, had taken from the Emperor land to the extent of more than thirty days' journeys, covered with good cities and castles, which they had subdued and which paid tribute to them. The Turks had, in truth, made such conquests that an army of them came opposite Constantinople; there was not more than an arm of the sea, less than two miles broad, between them and the city, and they drew their swords and threatened the Emperor, and the Emperor could see it all. Imagine with what grief he beheld it. If they had had wherewith to cross this arm of the sea, they would have taken Constantinople.

And so, behold what sort of people the Greeks are, who at that time had Constantinople. Skyr Miqueli, eldest son of the Emperor, went to Artasqui with full twelve thousand horsemen and full a hundred thousand afoot; but he dared not fight the Turks, so that he had to return with shame.

To that place, Artasqui, where he had been, and whence he had to return, the Emperor sent the Grand Duke with his Company, which was not more than fifteen hundred horse and four thousand foot, and they vanquished the Turks.

CHAPTER XXIV

HOW THE GRAND DUKE LANDED AT ARTAQUI AND VANQUISHED
THE TURKS AND HOW THE EMPEROR'S SON SKYR MIQUELI
SHOWED GREAT ENVY AND HATRED OF THE GRAND DUKE.

THE Grand Duke took leave of the Emperor and embarked and went to Artahui, because the Turks wished, at all costs, to have that peninsula, which is a very fertile place. All this peninsula is protected towards the land by a wall half a mile long from one sea to the other. The Turks had come many times to demolish this wall, for, if they could demolish it, they could pillage the whole peninsula.

So the Grand Duke with all his followers landed there, and the Turks knew nothing of it. When he had landed he heard that the Turks had fought there that day. He asked if they were far off, and they told him that they were about two leagues away, and that they were between two rivers. At once the Grand Duke had it cried that every man should be ready next morning to follow the banner. He carried his banner and that of the Emperor with the chivalry, and the almugavars carried a pennon with the arms of the Lord King of Aragon, and the van a pennon with the arms of King Fadrique. This they had agreed to do when they did homage to the Grand Duke.

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In the morning they rose with great eagerness and cheerfulness, so early that at dawn they were by the river where the Turks were encamped with their wives and children, and they proceeded to attack them in such manner that the Turks marvelled at them. The battle was hard after the Turks had seized their weapons, but the Grand Duke and his company of horse and foot threw themselves upon them in such wise that the Turks could not stand up before them. Yet they would not flee, because of their wives and children, who were with them, and for whom their hearts were sore; rather would they die first. There never were men who fought so well, but, nevertheless, in the end they were all taken captive with their wives and children. There died of the Turks on that day over three thousand horsemen and over two thousand afoot.

The Grand Duke and his followers collected the booty and returned to Artaqui with great joy, and brought away the galleys, the slaves, and very beautiful jewels. This was on the eighth day after they had parted from the Emperor. The joy and cheerfulness were great throughout the Empire; but, whoever else rejoiced, the Genoese were very sorrowful.

And so likewise had Skyr Miqueli great displeasure at it and great envy, so that, from that day, he was angry with the Grand Duke and his Company. He would rather have lost the Empire than that they should have gained this victory, because he had been at that place with so many followers, and had

A BAD WINTER

been defeated twice, although he himself was one of the accomplished knights of the world. But God had sent down such a pestilence upon the Greeks that anyone could have defeated them.

The Grand Duke with all his Company prepared to march through Anatolia against the Turks and deliver out of captivity the cities and castles that the Turks had conquered. But when he and his followers were ready to depart from Artaqui, which was on the first day of November, there set in the most severe winter of the world, with rain and wind and cold and bad weather, so that the rivers became so large that no man could cross them. So he decided to winter in this place, Artaqui, and he sent to Constantinople for the Grand Duchess, and they spent the winter with great joy and gaiety.

When February was over the Grand Duke proclaimed that every man be ready to follow the banner on the first day of April, and whilst they were making ready the Grand Duke with the Grand Duchess went to Constantinople to leave the Grand Duchess there and to take leave of the Emperor. A great feast was made for him and great honour shown him. And then he embarked and went back to Artaqui, where all greatly rejoiced to see him.

On the first day of April the banner issued forth and every man prepared to follow it and, in due time, they entered the Kingdom of Anatolia. The Turks were prepared to oppose them—namely, two bands which were composed of kinsmen of those

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the Company had killed at Artahui. The Company came to a city called Philadelphia, which is a noble city; and near that city, at a distance of one journey, were the two bands of Turks, who were altogether full eight thousand horsemen and full twelve thousand foot. And they offered battle.

The Grand Duke and his Company had great pleasure thereat. At once, before the arrows of the Turks hit their mark, the horsemen attacked the Turkish horsemen, and the almugavars the men afoot. The battle was very hard and lasted from sunrise until the evening. The Turks were all killed or taken prisoners; there did not escape a thousand of the horsemen nor five hundred of the men afoot. The news went throughout Anatolia that the bands had been defeated by the Franks.

The Grand Duke and his Company departed and went to other cities, and they went to the city of Tyre. At dawn of day the Turks came to Tyre, not knowing that the Franks were there. As they began to arrive, a cry of alarm went about the district; the Grand Duke looked and saw the Turks; all could see them, for they were in the plain and the city of Tyre lies high. He commanded En Corberan de Alet, who was seneschal of the host, to go out against them with what company would follow him. The Company seized their arms hurriedly, and En Corberan, with about two hundred horsemen and a thousand men afoot, went and attacked the Turks.

He vanquished them at once, and killed over

DEATH OF EN CORBERAN

seven hundred horse and many afoot, and he would have killed them all, but the mountain was near and they left their horses and fled to the mountain on foot. En Corberan de Alet, who was a very accomplished knight with great spirit, dismounted also and went up the mountain. The Turks, seeing the Christians come up after them, shot their arrows, and, unfortunately, an arrow hit En Corberan, who had taken off his iron cap because of the heat and dust, and there he died. This was a great loss. The Christians remained with him and the Turks went away. En Corberan was buried, with about ten other Christians who had been killed with him, in the church of St. George with great solemnity. And they had fine tombs made for them; the Grand Duke and the host lingered eight days in order that a rich and beautiful tomb should be erected for En Corberan.

CHAPTER XXV

HOW EN ROCAFORT CAME TO THE GRAND DUKE AND HOW THE
GRAND DUKE MADE HIM SENESCHAL OF THE HOST AND
HOW THE EMPEROR SENT FOR THE GRAND DUKE.

AT this time En Berenguer Rocafort had come to Constantinople, and he brought over two hundred horsemen with all their array except horses, and he brought full a thousand almugavars. He had an interview with the Emperor, and the Emperor commanded him to go to where the Grand Duke was.

En Rocafort went to Ani and found that the Grand Duke was at Tyre, and he sent him word that he had come with those followers. The Grand Duke was greatly pleased, and wished me to go to Ani and bring En Rocafort to the city of Ayasaluk, which the Scriptures call by another name, Ephesus.

At once I took leave of the Grand Duke and of the Company, and I sent twenty horses for the use of En Rocafort, for him to ride and come to me in the city of Ephesus. He underwent much danger on his way, from many attacks of the Turks. There came with him full five hundred almugavars; the others remained in the city of Ani, with the admiral, En Ferran de Ahones, because of the Turks who made raids every day. When they had been in the city of Ephesus four days the Grand Duke came

SLAUGHTER OF THE TURKS

with all the host and received En Berenguer de Rocafort, and made him seneschal of the host, as En Corberan de Alet had been, and at once gave him a hundred horsemen and four months' pay for his followers. And the Grand Duke stayed in Ephesus eight days, and then came with all the host to the city of Ani. The admiral, En Ferran de Ahones, and all the seamen and all those who had come with En Rocafort, issued forth armed to receive him.

The Grand Duke had much pleasure thereat, because they had thus reinforced his host. One day the cry of alarm was raised that the Turks were raiding the gardens around Ani, and the host went out in such manner that they came upon the Turks and attacked them, so that on that day they killed a thousand Turkish horsemen and full two thousand men afoot. The others fled; if evening had not overtaken them, they would all have been killed or taken prisoners. The Company returned to the city of Ani with great joy and cheerfulness and with great gain they had made.

The Grand Duke stayed with the host in the city of Ani full a fortnight, and then he had the banner brought out, and wished to complete a visit to all the Kingdom of Anatolia, so that the host went as far as the Iron Gate, which is a mountain over which there is a pass called the Iron Gate, at the parting of Anatolia and the Kingdom of Armenia.

When he was at the Iron Gate the Turks of that band which had been defeated at Ani, and all the

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other Turks who were left of other bands, were all assembled on the mountain; they were full ten thousand horsemen and full twenty thousand men afoot. In order of battle, at dawn of day, they marched against the Grand Duke, and at once the Franks were ready with great joy; and the almugavars cried: "Awake the iron!" The Grand Duke with the chivalry attacked the horsemen, and En Rocafort and the almugavars attacked the men afoot.

There might you have seen feats of arms such as man had never seen. The battle was very cruel, but in the end the Franks shouted all together, "Aragon! Aragon!" and they had such a victory that they altogether vanquished the Turks. Overtaking and killing them, they pursued them until nightfall; night stopped their pursuit. Nevertheless, there fell of the Turkish horsemen over six thousand, and of those afoot over twelve thousand. And so that night the Company had a good night, for the Turks lost all their provisions and cattle. Next day the Franks searched the field; altogether the host stayed in that place eight days to search the field, and the gain they made was infinite.

Then the Grand Duke proclaimed that every man should follow his banner, and he went to the Iron Gate and there stayed three days, and then prepared to return to the city of Ani. Whilst he was returning to Ani messengers came to him from the Emperor, who let him know that he should leave everything and return to Constantinople with all his

A COUNCIL

host, because the Emperor of the Bulgars, father of the Grand Duchess, had died. He had left his Empire to his two sons, but their uncle, brother of their father, had rebelled against the Empire. Therefore, the Emperor of Constantinople, because the Empire of the Bulgars belonged to his nephews, the sons of his sister, summoned this rebel to surrender the Empire to his nephews.

But he made him a very cruel answer, so that a great war ensued between them. The Emperor of Constantinople was being defeated every day, and therefore he sent messengers to the Grand Duke to tell him to come to his assistance.

The Grand Duke was greatly displeased at having to abandon at that time the Kingdom of Anatolia, which he had conquered completely and delivered out of its troubles and out of the hands of the Turks. After he had received the message and the pressing entreaties of the Emperor, he assembled a council and told all the Company the message he had received, and he begged them to advise him what he should do.

They gave him the advice that, by all means, he should go and succour the Emperor in his need, and then in the spring they would return to Anatolia. This the Grand Duke held to be good advice, and at once they prepared to get ready and fitted out the galleys and put into them all they had taken. The host took the road by the coast, so that the galleys were daily near the host, and the Grand Duke left a good garrison in every place, although a small

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garrison would have sufficed, for they had swept away the Turks in such wise that hardly one dared show himself.

When the Emperor knew that the host was near he was very joyous, and he sent to tell the Grand Duke to cross over to Gallipoli and lodge his followers in the peninsula of Gallipoli. It is the best provided peninsula of the world, as well with good bread as with good wines and a great abundance of all fruit. The Grand Duke distributed all his host amongst the manors, which are provided with everything, and agreed that everyone should pay for what he wanted, and should make tallies of it and keep a reckoning.

When he had settled all this he went with a hundred horsemen to Constantinople to see the Emperor, and when he entered the city a great feast was made for him and great honour shown him. And whilst he was at Constantinople the rebel who had seized the Kingdom of the Bulgars heard that the Grand Duke had come with all his host, and so he held his cause for lost. He sent his messengers to the Emperor, and complied with all the Emperor wished. Thus the Emperor got, through the Franks, all he wanted in this war.

When peace was made the Grand Duke requested the Emperor to pay the Company, and the Emperor said he would do so. He had money coined like the ducat of Venice, which is worth eight dineres of Barcelona, and he had also some made worth only three dineres each. He wanted them taken

A PLOT

at the same value as the others, and he commanded everyone to buy what they needed from the Greeks, and to pay in that coin. This he did out of wickedness—namely, in order to create hatred and ill-will between the population and the host. For, as soon as he had obtained his wish in all the wars, he wished the Franks to be all killed or taken out of the Empire.

But the Grand Duke refused to take this money.

CHAPTER XXVI

HOW EN BERENGUER DE ENTENZA CAME TO CONSTANTINOPLE AND WAS MADE GRAND DUKE AND FREY ROGER WAS MADE CÆSAR OF THE EMPIRE AND HOW THE CÆSAR WENT TO ADRIANOPLE TO SKYR MIQUELI AND HOW SKYR MIQUELI HAD HIM TREACHEROUSLY MURDERED BY GIRCON CHIEF OF THE ALANS.

WHILST this quarrel was going on En Berenguer de Entenza came to Constantinople. He brought full three hundred horsemen and full a thousand almugavars. The Emperor received him very well, and the Grand Duke received him still better. When he had been there a day the Grand Duke went to the Emperor and said to him:

“ Lord, this noble is one of the greatest nobles of Spain, and is one of the most accomplished knights of the world, and is to me as a brother. He has come to serve you, for your honour and for love of me, wherefore I must give him notable satisfaction, and so, by your leave, I shall give him the baton and cap. Henceforth, let him be Grand Duke.”

The Emperor said he was content, and when he saw the generosity of the Grand Duke, that he was ready to divest himself of his office, he said to himself that this generosity should be a benefit to him, and next day, before the Emperor



He took off his Grand Duke's cap and put it on the head of En Berenguer.

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and a full court, the Grand Duke took off his cap and put it on the head of En Berenguer de Entenza, and then gave him the baton and the seal and the banner of the office; at which everyone marvelled.

As soon as this was done, the Emperor made Frey Roger sit down before him and gave him the baton, the cap, the banner and the seal of the Empire, and invested him with the robes belonging to the office and made him Cæsar of the Empire.

A Cæsar is an officer who sits in a chair near that of the Emperor, only half a palm lower, and he can do as much as the Emperor in the Empire. He can dispose of the treasure, impose tributes, and he can apply the question, and hang and quarter; finally, all the Emperor can do, he can do also. He signs "Cæsar of Our Empire," and the Emperor writes to him "Cæsar of Thy Empire." There is no difference between them, except that the Cæsar's chair is half a palm lower than that of the Emperor, and that the Emperor wears a scarlet cap and all his robes are scarlet, and the Cæsar wears a blue cap and all his robes are blue with a narrow gold border.

And so Frey Roger was created Cæsar, and thenceforth En Berenguer de Entenza was called Grand Duke, and Frey Roger Cæsar.

With great rejoicing they returned to Gallipoli, and there the Cæsar spent the winter with my Lady his wife. When they had celebrated the feast of the Nativity, he went to Constantinople to arrange with the Emperor what they should do,

CÆSAR DEPARTS

for spring was approaching; but the Grand Duke remained at Gallipoli. When the Cæsar was at Constantinople he arranged that he and the Grand Duke should pass into the Kingdom of Anatolia, and it was so settled between them that the Emperor would give the Cæsar all the Kingdom of Anatolia and all the islands of Romania.

The Cæsar returned to Gallipoli, and he said to my Lady his wife that he wished to go and take leave of Skyr Miqueli, and his wife told him not to go there on any account, for she knew Skyr Miqueli was very hostile to him and was so envious that, assuredly, if the Cæsar went to a place where Skyr Miqueli had the greater power, he would destroy him with all who should come with him. But in the end the Cæsar said that nothing would prevent him from going, that it would be a shame for him to depart from Romania and go to the Kingdom of Anatolia with the intention of fighting the Turks and not to take leave, and it would be taken in bad part.

His wife and her mother and her brothers, who were with her, were so afflicted that they assembled all the council of the host and made them tell him on no account to go on that journey. But they spoke in vain, for nothing would make him refrain from going. He fitted himself out with three hundred horsemen and a thousand men afoot to go to Adrianople; Skyr Miqueli was at Adrianople, which is a very important city, five journeys from Gallipoli.

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When the Cæsar parted from the host he left as head and chief, the Grand Duke En Berenguer de Entenza, and he left En Berenguer de Rocafort as seneschal. And then, by his journeys, he came to the city of Adrianople, and the son of the Emperor, Skyr Miqueli, issued forth to meet him and received him with great honours. This the wicked man did in order to see with what company he was coming.

When the Cæsar had entered Adrianople, Skyr Miqueli stayed with him six days, amidst great joy and cheer, and then the Cæsar stayed six days with Skyr Miqueli. Meanwhile, Skyr Miqueli had summoned Gircon to Adrianople, the chief of the Alans, and Melech, chief of the Turcoples, so that they were altogether nine thousand horsemen.

When they had come he invited the Cæsar to a banquet, and when they had eaten, this Gircon, chief of the Alans, entered the palace in which Skyr Miqueli and his wife and the Cæsar were, and they drew their swords and massacred the Cæsar and all who were with him. And then, throughout the city, they killed all who had come with the Cæsar. Not more than three escaped, who went up into a bell tower. These were attacked in the bell tower, and defended themselves so well that Skyr Miqueli said it would be a sin if they were killed. So he gave them a safe-conduct, and they alone escaped.

Skyr Miqueli committed a greater crime still, for he had arranged to send the Turcoples with a part of the Alans to Gallipoli, and ordained that, on the day the Cæsar was killed, they should sack

A SIEGE AND A RAID

Gallipoli and all the manors. We had put the horses to grass, and the people were at the manors, so they found us off our guard, and took all the horses we had at the manors and killed over a thousand people. There did not remain to us more than two hundred and six horses, and not more than three thousand three hundred and seven men of arms, between horse and foot, seamen and landsmen.

At once they laid their siege, and so many came upon us, there were full fourteen thousand horsemen, between Turcopoles, Alans, and Greeks, and full thirty thousand men afoot. The Grand Duke—namely, En Berenguer de Entenza—ordered that we should make a fosse and enclose with it all the raval of Gallipoli, and so we did. Full fifteen days did we stay there, and twice every day we had hand-to-hand fights with them, and every day it was our misfortune to be the losers.

Whilst we were thus besieged En Berenguer de Entenza had five galleys and two small boats equipped, and, in spite of all who were there, he said he wished to go and make a raid, in order to get refreshment of victuals and money for the Company. All said to him that this should not be done, but that it was better that we should remain all together to fight those who were holding us besieged. He, expert and wise knight as he was, saw the risk of the battle, and would on no account agree to it, but thought he would make a raid in the direction of Constantinople, and when he had made this raid he would return at once to Gallipoli.

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In the end it had to be done as he wished, and so many embarked with him that there only remained in Gallipoli En Berenguer de Rocafort, who was seneschal of the host, and I, Ramon Muntaner, who was commander in Gallipoli. No more than five knights remained with us. We passed in review how many we were when En Berenguer de Entenza had departed, and we found there were, between horse and foot, one thousand four hundred and sixty men of arms, of which two hundred and six were mounted, for we had no more horses, and a thousand two hundred and fifty-six men afoot. So we remained full of trouble, for every day we had hand-to-hand fights with those outside, from morning till vesper-time.

CHAPTER XXVII

HOW EN BERENGUER DE ENTENZA WAS TAKEN PRISONER AND
HOW THE COMPANY WAS BESIEGED AT GALLIPOLI AND
DEFEATED THE BESIEGERS IN A GREAT BATTLE.

WHEN we knew that the Cæsar was dead, whilst we were being besieged in Gallipoli, we agreed that we would defy the Emperor and impeach him for bad faith and for what he had done to us, and that this impeachment, and then the challenge, be made at Constantinople. It was ordained that a knight and a guide and two commanders and two boatswains should go there in a barge of twenty oars, in the name of En Berenguer de Entenza and of all the Company.

And so it was done; they went to Constantinople and defied the Emperor, and then impeached him for bad faith, and offered to fight, ten against ten, or a hundred against a hundred, for they were ready to prove that he had wickedly and treacherously had the Cæsar and all the other people with him killed, and had attacked the Company without defying it, and that his good name was stained by this, and henceforth they disowned him.

The Emperor made the excuse that he had not done it. See how he could make excuses and then, the same day, had all the Catalans and Aragonese who were at Constantinople killed.

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When they had defied the Emperor the messengers departed from him. They asked him to give them a guide to go with them until they were back at Gallipoli. He gave them a guide, and when they came to the city of Rodosto the guide caused them all to be taken, twenty-seven persons they were, Catalans and Aragonese. They were all cut into quarters in the shambles, and the quarters were hung up.

You can imagine what cruelty that was; but take heart, for you shall hear further on that, of this, such vengeance was taken by the Company that no such vengeance had ever been taken before.

Berenguer de Entenza had gone to take the city of Eregli, which is twenty-four miles distant from Constantinople, and there he made so much gain, it was infinite. With this gain he returned to Gallipoli by sea, and, as he was returning, eighteen Genoese galleys, which were going to Constantinople, met him. He bade his followers arm and, running the prows of his galleys on shore, remained with the sterns of the five galleys towards the sea.

But the Genoese saluted him, and then went to him in a barge to give him a safe-conduct, and the commander of the galleys invited him to dine in his galley. En Berenguer, to his misfortune, trusted them and went to the galley of the commander. Whilst they were dining, and the retinue of En Berenguer was disarmed, two galleys went and took four galleys of En Berenguer and all the followers in them prisoners, and killed over two

WAR ON THE EMPEROR

hundred persons. One galley would not surrender, and on this galley the fight was so great that there died full three hundred Genoese, and they of the galley were all killed, none escaped.

En Berenguer was taken a prisoner to Constantinople, he and all his followers who were alive, and all En Berenguer had gained at Eregli was taken. They treated him with great contumely at Pera, which is a town inhabited by Genoese, opposite Constantinople. He stayed there four months, and then they took him with them to Genoa, passing by Gallipoli. I interviewed him, and wanted to give ten thousand gold hyperpers, in order that they should leave him to us, but they would not do it.

When we saw we could not have him for any price, I gave him one thousand gold hyperpers, in order that he should have something to spend. And so they took him with them to Genoa.

We were much distressed, and so likewise when we knew the death of the messengers we had sent to the Emperor. So, one day, we assembled a council to discuss what we should do. The opinions we came to were two. Some said that we should go, with all we possessed, to the island of Mitylene, which is a good and fertile island; that we had still four galleys and twelve armed small boats, and many barges and a ship, a two-decker, so that we could embark and be saved; and then, from that island, we could wage war on the Emperor.

The other opinion was this: that it would be a

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

great disgrace to us to have lost two noble lords, and that so many worthy people should be killed through such great treachery without our avenging them or dying like them; that there would be no people in the world who would not have the right to stone us if we did not do so, especially as we were people of such renown, and as the right was on our side. It was better to die in honour than to live in dishonour.

The end of the council was that we decided to fight and to undertake the war, and that every man should die who said otherwise. For greater assurance we decided to take, at once, two planks out of the bottom of each galley and small boat and barge, and of the ship, in order that no one could reckon on being able to escape, and so everyone should prepare to do his best. This was the end of the council, and we went at once to scuttle all the vessels. And I had a great banner made of Saint Peter of Rome, to place on our tower, and a royal banner of the Lord King of Aragon, and another of the King of Sicily, and another of Saint George. These three we were to carry in battle. Between that day and the next they were made.

When Friday came, and the hour of vespers, twenty-three days before Saint Peter's day in June, we all assembled with our arms at the iron gate of the castle, and I made ten men go up the chief tower. A mariner sang the hymn of the blessed Saint Peter and all responded. When he had sung the hymn, as the banner was being raised, a cloud

PREPARATIONS

came over us and covered us with water as we were kneeling, and this lasted as long as the singing of the *Salve Regina*. When this was done, the sky became as clear as before, and all had great joy at this. We ordained that in the morning at dawn we should be ready to attack.

We ordained our battle in this manner, that we formed no van nor centre nor rear, but put the horsemen on the left, and the foot-soldiers we put on the right. What we had ordained the enemy knew; they were in tents near us, on a mountain, all ploughed ground, distant from us about two miles.

When the morning came, which was Saturday, they came to the number of eight thousand horsemen, and they left behind two thousand horsemen, with the men afoot in the tents, for they were confident that victory was theirs already.

We were prepared and ready for battle. When the sun had risen we were outside the entrenchments, all arrayed for the fight, ordained as I have told you already. When the trumpets and nakers sounded we attacked all together in the same place, and the enemy stood, lance on thigh, arrayed for the attack. We so penetrated amidst them that it seemed as if the whole castle was coming down and they likewise attacked most vigorously.

For their sin and by our good right, they were defeated. After their van was defeated they all turned at once, and we attacked in such manner that no man raised his hand without hitting flesh.

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We came as far as the mountain on which their host was, and if ever you saw people come to meet their friends, with a good countenance, to help them, there you saw their host, horse and foot, do so. So that, at that point, we feared we should have much to do. But one voice arose amongst us, for we all cried, when we came to the foot of the mountain: "Up! At them! Aragon! Aragon! Saint George! Saint George!" And we took fresh courage, and all went on to attack them vigorously. And so they were defeated, and then we need do nothing more than hit. As long as it was daylight the pursuit lasted, for altogether twenty-four miles. It was dark before we left them, and we had to return in the night; it was midnight before we were back in Gallipoli.

Next day we reviewed our company and we found that we had not lost more than one horseman and two afoot; we searched the field and, assuredly, we found that altogether we had killed full six hundred horsemen and over twenty thousand afoot. And this was the wrath of God upon them, for we certainly could not imagine that we had killed so many, rather we thought that they had suffocated each other. And, likewise, many died in barges, of which there were many beached along the shore, which had been abandoned, and they launched them and put in so many people that when they were out at sea they capsized and all were drowned, and thus many men were lost.

The gain we made in this battle was so great that

GOLD AND SILVER

it could not be counted. We stayed there eight days searching the field. There was nothing more to do but to bring away the gold and silver these people carried on them, for all the belts of the horse-men, and the swords and saddles and reins, and all their armour were garnished with gold and silver, and all carried money. The men afoot the same, and so what was gained there was infinite. And likewise, we got there full three thousand horses alive, the rest had been killed or wounded. We took so many horses that there were three for each man.

CHAPTER XXVIII

HOW SKYR MIQUELI MARCHED TO GALLIPOLI AND HOW RAMON MUNTANER AND THE COMPANY WITH HIM WENT OUT TO MEET HIM AND DEFEATED HIM.

WHILST the field was being searched I had taken four Greeks to mercy, whom I found in a house. They were poor men who had been at Gallipoli. I told them I would treat them well if they would be my spies. They agreed with great joy, and I dressed them very well in the Greek fashion, and gave each of them one of our horses, which we had just taken. They swore they would serve me loyally.

I sent two of them to Adrianople, to see what Skyr Miqueli was doing; the other two I sent to Constantinople. Within a few days those who had gone to Skyr Miqueli returned, and said he was marching upon us with seventeen thousand horse and full a hundred thousand foot, and that he had already left Adrianople.

Upon this we all assembled in council and discussed what to do, and, in the end, the council said that we should on no account tarry at Gallipoli; that Gallipoli was a strong place, and we had made so much gain that our courage might weaken, and so that we should on no account allow ourselves to be besieged. And, again, that Skyr Miqueli would not be able to come with the whole host

NEWS OF THE ENEMY

assembled, rather it would suit him to form a van, and that we should meet the van and should attack it, and, if we defeated it, all would be defeated. And as we could not mount to Heaven, nor go down into the depths, nor go away by sea or land, therefore it followed that we had to pass through their hands, and so it was well that our courage should not be weakened by what we had gained, nor by the force we saw before us.

So it was agreed to march against them. We left a hundred men and the women in the castle and proceeded to go. When we had gone three journeys we slept at the foot of a mountain and, on the other side, slept the enemy, and one side knew nothing of the other until it was midnight, when we saw a great light from the fires they had lit. We sent two Greeks we had taken, as scouts, to bring back news, and we learnt that S kyr Miqueli was there with six thousand horsemen, and that early in the morning they would set out for Gallipoli, and that the rest of the host, for want of water, was about a league distant from them, but was coming. S kyr Miqueli was lying at a castle there was in that plain, called Apros, a very good and strong castle, with a large town. We were very pleased when we knew there was a castle and a town, for we reckoned that the want of spirit of these people was such that they would wait until we could reach the town or castle of Apros.

When dawn came we all armed ourselves in battle array to go up the mountain, which was ploughed

land, and when we were on the top and it was day, they of the host saw us and thought we were coming to surrender at mercy to Skyr Miqueli. But he himself thought this was no trifling matter; rather he put on full armour, for he was an accomplished knight, he wanted nothing to be that but that he was not loyal.

So, finely arrayed himself, he came towards us with all his retinue, and we towards him. When we came to the attack a great many of our almugavars dismounted from their horses, for they were bolder on foot than on horseback, and we all proceeded to attack very vigorously, and they likewise. But their van was defeated, as, in the other battle the van had been defeated, except Skyr Miqueli who, with about a hundred knights, went and fought amongst us. He wounded, in one of his attacks, a mariner who was on a valuable horse he had taken in the first battle, and who wore very handsome breastplates which he had obtained in the same way; but he carried no shield, because he did not know how to manage it on horseback. Skyr Miqueli thought that he was man of great importance, and gave him a blow with his sword on the left arm and wounded him in the hand. He, seeing himself wounded, and being a young man and spirited, went close to him, and with a dagger gave him full thirteen blows. With one he wounded him in the face so that he was quite disfigured, and he dropped his shield and fell from his horse. His men carried him out of the press which was great

ROMANIA CONQUERED

(and we did not know it was he), and put him into the castle of Apros.

And then the battle was very hard until night, and they were all discomfited round about the castle, and all fled to it who could. But, however many fled, yet there died of them over ten thousand horse and an infinity of men afoot; of ours, not more than nine horse and twenty-seven foot were killed. That night we remained on the battlefield, all in armour, and next day, when we thought they would give us battle again, we found none of them in the field. We went up to the castle and attacked it and were there full eight days. We searched the field and took away with us full ten carts, each cart drawn by four buffaloes, and so much cattle that they covered the land. We had made endless gain, much more than in the first battle.

From that hour all Romania was conquered, and we had so put fear into their hearts that we could not shout "Franks!" but they were at once prepared to flee.

So with great rejoicings we returned to Gallipoli, and then every day we made raids and raided as far as the gates of Constantinople. It happened one day that a mounted almugavar had lost at play, and he and two sons of his took their arms and, with no other company, went to Constantinople on foot, and in a garden of the Emperor they found two Genoese merchants shooting quails. They took them and brought them to Gallipoli and got three thousand gold hyperpers as ransom. Such raids were made every day.

CHAPTER XXIX

OF THE RAIDS THE COMPANY MADE AND HOW EN FERRAN XIMENO TOOK THE CASTLE OF MADITOS AND HOW THE COMPANY WAS DIVIDED AND ONE PART REMAINED AT GALLIPOLI UNDER RAMON MUNTANER.

WHEN this war was over, and the land had been raided every day, the Company decided to go and sack the town of Rodosto, where our messengers had been killed so cruelly. As they decided, so it was done. They went one morning at dawn, and to all the people they found in that city they did what had been done to the messengers. Assuredly it was a very cruel deed, nevertheless they wreaked this vengeance. When they had done this they went to take another city, which is called Panido, and when they had taken these two cities they thought it well that they should move into them with their wives and children. But I remained at Gallipoli with the seamen and with a hundred almugavars and fifty horsemen.

When the Company was thus settled in those two towns En Ferran Ximeno de Arenas, who was in the Morea, experienced knight as he was, thought we in Gallipoli would require a company, and he came to us and brought about eighty men, Catalans and Aragonese. All were very pleased, and we were all refreshed by it. We gave him so much

A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT

that he and his company were very well mounted and provided with all things.

When he was thus established he one day took about a hundred and fifty horse and about three hundred foot and made a raid as far as the city of Constantinople. As he was returning from it, with a crowd of people and cattle he was bringing with him, the Emperor sent full eight hundred horse and full a thousand foot to a pass by which he had to come. En Ferran Ximeno, seeing them, admonished his followers to do well, and, all together, they attacked. Between killed and prisoners they got over six hundred horse and over two thousand foot; it was a very fine and gallant feat. They gained so much in this raid that, with this gain, they went to besiege a castle called Maditos, and this siege was made with no more than eighty horse and two hundred afoot, and within were over seven hundred Greek men of arms.

Indeed, En Ferran was more truly besieged than those within. All the bread they ate I sent them in barges from Gallipoli, and there are twenty-four miles from Gallipoli there. I had to send all the refreshment. He kept up the siege full eight months and shot day and night with catapults. I had sent him ten rope ladders with grappling irons, and many times in the night they tried to scale the walls, but it could not be done.

I shall tell you the finest adventure which happened to En Ferran, the finest that ever happened. One day in July, when the afternoon was very hot,



They shot day and night with catapults.

THE CASTLE SEIZED

all they of the castle were resting, some sleeping in the shade, some talking. And so, as the afternoon was so hot that all the world was baking in the heat, whoever may have slept, En Ferran Ximeno was watching, as one who had a great load on his shoulders. And he looked towards the wall and heard no one talking there, nor did anyone appear. He approached the wall and pretended to set up scaling ladders, and still no one appeared. Then he returned to the tents and made every man get ready.

And he took a hundred young and spirited men. They approached the wall with the ladders and raised them to the top of the wall, and then mounted, five men on each ladder, one behind the other. They all noiselessly went up the wall and were not heard. Then others went up, so that there were full sixty, and they seized the three towers. En Ferran Ximeno went to the gate of the castle, with all the rest of the people with axes, to break in the door. So, when the first men were killing the men on the wall and the cry of alarm was raised within, all they of the castle ran to the wall, and the others broke in the door.

It happened thus: when those sixty men were upon the wall they threw themselves on those of the wall, who were asleep, and all ran to succour these, and En Ferran Ximeno was at the door and broke it in and met no one to resist him. When the doors were open they entered to kill and destroy all they met.

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

So they took the castle, and so much coin was taken that, from that hour, En Ferran Ximeno and his Company never were in want, rather were they all rich. So you may well understand the finest adventure that you have ever heard related, that at midday a castle was scaled which had been besieged for eight months.

When all this was over, all the Company was divided into three parts, one behind the other—namely, En Ferran Ximeno at Maditos, and I, Ramon Muntaner, at Gallipoli with all the seamen and others. Gallipoli was the chief of all, and all came there who wanted clothes or armour or other things, and they found there all they wanted. Rocafort was at Rodosto and Panido with all the rest of the Company, and all were rich and well to do.

We sowed nothing, nor ploughed, nor dug over the vineyards, nor pruned the vines, but took every year as much wine as we wanted and as much wheat and oats.

So we lived there five years, and the most wonderful raids were made man could ever imagine; if one wanted to tell them all, he could never write enough.

There was a baron in the Kingdom of Salonica called Sir George de Cristopol, who came from the Kingdom of Salonica to Constantinople, to the Emperor. And when he came to the district of Gallipoli he said to his company, which consisted of about eighty horsemen well apparelled and well

A VICTORY

mounted, that, as they were near Gallipoli, he wished to raid it; that he knew there were no horsemen there, and hardly any men afoot, and so they would capture the pack-mules and the carts which were sent out for wood. All held this for good.

I used to send daily two carts and two mules for wood, and with them went a squire who lived with me, a mounted cross-bowman. When they came to the place where they were to get the wood these others went at them. But the squire, seeing them, commanded four men he had with him to go up a tower without any doors which was there, to defend themselves with stones, and he would run to Gallipoli, and they would soon have succour.

The Greeks took the carts and mules at once, and the squire ran to Gallipoli and raised the alarm, and we issued forth. In truth, I had no more than six armed horse and eight light horse, for I had sent the rest of the horse company on a raid with En Rocafort. And these others came as far as our barriers, and we all, horse and foot, collected together, and they did also. As we had done in other battles, we proceeded to attack them all together, horse and foot. We vanquished them, and we took thirty-seven horsemen, some killed and some prisoners, and the others we pursued as far as the tower where my four men were who had been with the carts and the mules.

We recovered these four men; then we let the enemy go and we returned to Gallipoli. Next day we had an auction of the horses and of the prisoners

and of what we had taken, and we had of the booty twenty-eight gold hyperpers for each armed horse, and fourteen for each light horse, and seven for each foot-soldier, so that everyone had his share.

Whilst this was being done En Rocafort had gone on a raid to a place called Lestanayre, where all the ships and barges and galleys of Romania are made. There were at Lestanayre over a hundred and fifty small boats, one with the other, and they burnt them all and took all that had been ours, and sacked all the town and the manors of that place. They returned with a great booty.

CHAPTER XXX

HOW TWO OF THE COMPANIES DECIDED TO GO AND FIGHT THE ALANS AND AVENGE THE DEATH OF THE CÆSAR AND HOW GIRCON WHO HAD KILLED THE CÆSAR WITH HIS OWN HAND WAS KILLED AND HIS HEAD CUT OFF.

A FEW days after we all decided, En Rocafort, En Ferran Ximeno and I and the others, that all we had done was worth nothing if we did not go and fight the Alans who had killed the Cæsar. In the end this was agreed and we at once set to work.

It was ordained that the Company which was at Panido and Rodosto should all return to Gallipoli with their wives and children and all their property and leave them there, and that the banners be taken away from those two towns. And so it was done. Gallipoli was the headquarters of all the host, and I was commander of Gallipoli, and chancellor and comptroller of the host and I had the seal of the Company.

When all the Company was at Gallipoli the lot fell on me to remain and guard the city and the women and children and all belonging to the Company. They left me two hundred men of arms afoot and twenty horsemen.

And so the host proceeded to issue forth. It was full twelve journeys to where the Alans were,

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

in the territory of the Emperor of the Bulgars. No one was found who wished to remain in Gallipoli; in the night some of those who were to remain went away, so many that there were left with me only a hundred and thirty-two men afoot, some being seamen, some almugavars, and seven horse who were of my household. To the others I was forced to give leave, and they promised to give half of all the gain they would make to those seven armed horsemen who remained with me. So I remained badly provided with men and well provided with women, for altogether there remained with me over two thousand women.

The host departed at a suitable hour, and they entered the Empire of the Bulgars in a beautiful plain. Gircon, the chief of the Alans, who, with his own hand, had killed the Cæsar at Adrianople, was there, and had with him up to three thousand horse and up to six thousand foot. All had their wives and children there, for the Alans live after the manner of the Tartars; they always march with all their belongings and never lodge in city or village.

Our men, when they came near them, tarried one day without approaching them, to settle and arrange all about the battle. When they had rested one day they came, on the following day, to within one league of them, and then afterwards, rising very early, at dawn they were upon them, and proceeded to attack amongst the tents. The Alans had had news of them, but did not think they

A VALIANT KNIGHT

were so near; but full a thousand horse were ready at once. The battle was hard and lasted all day. At the hour of midday Gircon was killed, and his head was cut off, and his banners were cut down. The Alans were soon defeated, and of all of them there did not escape, of horse and foot, three hundred men; all died because they had not the heart to leave their wives and children and flee.

But I must recount to you what happened to one of their knights who was bringing away his wife. He rode a good horse, and his wife another. Three horsemen of ours went after them. The lady's horse was getting tired, and the knight was hitting it with the flat of his sword, but in the end our horsemen overtook the knight. When he saw that they were overtaking him, and that he would lose the lady, he pushed on a little ahead. The lady gave a great cry, and he returned towards her and embraced and kissed her, and when he had done this he struck her on the neck with his sword so that her head was cut off at one blow.

And then he turned towards our horsemen, who were already seizing the lady's horse, and gave a cut with his sword to one of them which cut off his left arm at one stroke, and he fell dead to the ground. The other two, seeing this, rushed upon him, and he upon them, and one of them was a good man of arms. The knight would not leave the lady's side, so that they cut him all to pieces. See how valiant he was! He had killed one knight and badly wounded the two others. He

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

died like a good knight, and he had done what he did to his own great sorrow.

The greater part of the Alans died, and our men took the women and children and all they had, and the cattle and riding beasts. So with great gain they returned to Gallipoli, very joyous at the great vengeance they had taken for the death of the Cæsar.

Now I shall cease to speak to you of them, who have had plenty of toil and trouble, and must turn to speak to you of ourselves, who remained at Gallipoli, and have not had any less trouble than they.

CHAPTER XXXI

HOW SIR ANTONIO SPINOLA CAME TO GALLIPOLI AND CHALLENGED THE COMPANY AND HOW RAMON MUNTANER PREPARED THE DEFENCES OF GALLIPOLI AND FOUGHT SIR ANTONIO AND HOW SIR ANTONIO HAD HIS HEAD CUT OFF.

WHEN the Company had departed from Gallipoli to march against the Alans, the Emperor heard of it; and it happened that at that time eighteen Genoese galleys, of which Sir Antonio Spinola was commander, had come from Genoa to Constantinople. Sir Antonio Spinola told the Emperor that, if he wished, he would wage war with him against the Franks of Romania, and the Emperor said he was content.

Upon this Sir Antonio Spinola came to Gallipoli with two galleys, and defied us in the name of the Commune of Genoa and of all the Genoese of the world if we did not get out of Romania. I answered him that we did not accept their challenge; that we knew that the Commune had been and was the friend of the House of Aragon and Sicily and Mallorca; and so that there was no reason that they should send this challenge, nor that we should accept it. A second time he returned to this same thing, and I answered the same; and then a third time he returned to it, and I answered that he was

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wrong in persisting in these challenges; rather, I required him to join us against the Emperor and his followers, who, very treacherously, had killed our chiefs and brothers, and so we required him to help us to take vengeance. But he held to his challenge, and this he did because he had given the Emperor to understand that, as soon as he had sent us the challenge, we would not dare to remain in Romania. But he did not know our heart; we had resolved not to leave until we had taken full vengeance.

So he returned to Constantinople and told the Emperor what he had done, and also told him that he would at once take the castle and me and all that were there. He had his eighteen galleys assembled, and seven belonging to the Emperor, and they came upon us before Gallipoli, with all the twenty-five galleys, one Saturday at vesper time. All that day and night they prepared ladders and arms to attack Gallipoli, knowing that the Company was far from us, and that we had been left with but few men of arms.

As they ordained their battles for the next day, I ordained my defences all night, and the defence I ordained was thus: I made all the women put on armour—for of armour there was plenty—and ordered them to the walls, and over each division of the walls I ordered a merchant, of those Catalan merchants who were there, to be the commander of the women. And I ordered half-casks and bowls of well-tempered wine, and much bread, in every

THE GALLEYS

street; who liked might eat and drink, for I knew well that the forces outside were so great they would not let us eat indoors. Then I ordered that every man should have good armour on, for I knew that the Genoese were well provided with sharp arrows and would shoot off many. They have a fashion of shooting ceaselessly, and they shoot more quarrels in one battle than Catalans would shoot in ten; so I made every man put on armour.

I had the posterns of the outer wall left open (they were all stockaded), in order that I might hasten to where it was most necessary. I also ordered physicians to be ready to assist when any man was wounded, so that he could return to the fight at once. When I had ordained all this, where everyone should be and what he should do, I went here and there with twenty men, where I saw it was most needed.

Day broke and the galleys approached in order to run ashore. I, on a good horse I had, and with a third of my knights in coats of mail and pour-point, fought the seamen in the topmasts to prevent their beaching the galleys. But, in the end, ten galleys were beached a long way off. Just then my horse fell; after a long while one of my squires came my way and gave me his horse, but, however much I hastened, the horse which had fallen and I got thirteen wounds between us. Nevertheless, when I had mounted the other horse, I put up the squire behind me, and so we went up to the castle. Of the five wounds I had I felt but little, except one,

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a sword-cut along my foot; this and the others I made them dress at once. But I had lost that good horse.

When they of the galleys saw I had fallen, they cried, "The commander is killed! At them! At them!" and then they landed all together, and they had ordained their battle very wisely. Out of each galley issued one banner with half the crew, and it was so ordained that, if any man of those who went to battle was hungry or thirsty, or was wounded, he should return to the galleys. If he was a cross-bowman, another cross-bowman should come out, and if he was a pikeman, another pikeman. So those who fought in battle would not be diminished in numbers, either for going to eat or for any other reason; rather, they would be fighting in full numbers.

They issued forth thus ordained, and every man prepared to fight where it was ordained, and the crews fought also. They proceeded to attack very vigorously, and we to defend ourselves. They shot so many quarrels that they almost hid the sky from men's sight, and this shooting lasted until the evening, so that the castle was full of quarrels. No one of us outside was wounded. A cook of mine was in the kitchen, cooking fowls for the wounded, when a bolt came down the chimney and entered his thigh, full two fingers deep.

The battle was very hard. Our women defended the outer wall, with stones and pieces of rock which I had placed on the wall, in so masterly a manner

WE TAKE OFF OUR ARMOUR

it was marvellous. Indeed, a woman was found there who had five wounds in her face from quarrels, and still continued the defence as if she had no hurt.

And so this fight lasted until the morning hour, and when the morning hour came Sir Antonio Spinola called out to his followers: "Oh, you despicable people, what is this? These miserable people inside can defend themselves against you? You are most despicable." Then he got ready with four hundred men of old families who were there, of all the best families of Genoa; and with five banners he prepared to issue from his galley.

I was told at once, and went up on the wall and saw them come, and at once had the armour put on my horse and on the other six horses I had. When we were all well arrayed and apparelled so that nothing was wanting, I summoned a hundred men of the best in the castle, and made them all take off their armour, as it was very hot, for it was the middle of July, and besides, I saw the quarrels had stopped—none were being shot, they had all been used. So I made them all get ready in their shirts and breeches, each man with a shield, and with a lance in his hand, and with girded sword and a dagger. When Sir Antonio Spinola, with all those good men with banners had come to the iron gate of the castle, and had been attacking it vigorously for a long while, so that the greater number had their tongues hanging out with thirst and the heat, I commended myself to God and had the gate

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opened, and with the six armed horses, and with the men afoot who had come thus lightly equipped, we attacked the banners.

At the first blow we cut down four, and they, seeing us attack thus vigorously, horse as well as foot, saw they were defeated, so that they soon turned their backs to us. Sir Antonio had his head cut off in the place in which he had made the challenges, and with him all the noblemen who had come out with him, so that altogether over six hundred Genoese were killed there. Our men mounted the ladders of the galleys mingled with the enemy, so that, in truth, if we only had had a hundred fresh men for the galleys, we should have captured more than four. But we were all wounded and exhausted, and so, unfortunately, we let them go.

When all the prisoners were collected (of whom some were drowned, for there were plenty who, on assembling, fell into the sea) there came a message to me, that about forty Genoese had remained on a hill. The captain of these was the strongest man of Genoa, Sir Antonio Bocanegra. I hurried there.

All his companions were killed, but he had a bordon in his hand, and made such thrusts that no one dared go near him. I, seeing him do so great a thing, commanded that no one should hit him, and told him to surrender, and begged him to do so many times. But he would not on any account. Then I commanded one of my squires, who was on an armed horse, to rush at him, and he did this

THE GALLEYS DEFEATED

willingly, and gave him such a knock with the horse's chest that he threw him to the ground, and then he was cut into more than a hundred pieces. So the Genoese galleys, defeated and with so great a loss of men, went to Genoa, and they of the Emperor went to Constantinople; but we remained, cheerful and content.

Next day the Company heard that I was besieged, and those who were well-mounted hurried on; in one night and one day they went more than three journeys, so that on the following day at vesper time more than eighty horsemen joined us. Then, after two days, the whole host came and found us all disfigured and wounded. They were all much displeased that they had not been present; nevertheless, we all rejoiced with each other, and they gave us a fair part of what they had gained.

CHAPTER XXXII

HOW MANY TURKS REINFORCED THE COMPANY AND HOW EN BERENGUER DE ENTENZA CAME OUT OF PRISON AND WENT TO ROMANIA AND HOW TROUBLE AROSE BETWEEN HIM AND EN ROCAFORT AND HOW THE LORD INFANTE EN FERRANDO CAME TO GALLIPOLI.

THE Turks we had cast out of Anatolia heard of the death of the Cæsar and of the captivity of En Berenguer de Entenza, but also of the great victories God had given us who were so few in number. They returned to Anatolia and conquered all the cities and castles of the Greeks, and oppressed them much more than at the time we went there. Behold what came of the wicked deeds of the Emperor and of the treachery against us. All Anatolia, which had been restored, was lost by it. The Turks took it, and we were devastating all Romania. Except the cities of Constantinople and Adrianople and Cristopolis and Salonica, there was not a city that was not pillaged and burnt by us, nor any place, unless it was a castle in the mountains.

There had only remained to the Emperor a thousand Turkish horsemen who were soldiers of his, and they used to be full four thousand horsemen. But in the first battle we killed full three thousand, and so there remained to him that

PARLEY WITH THE TURKS

thousand, and they put themselves under our power with their wives and children, and were always loyal and obedient to us. The Company had increased altogether by eighteen hundred Turkish horsemen, and had killed and taken away from the Emperor all the soldiers he had. And so we lorded it over all the land, and we raided the Empire at our ease.

There came a Turkish captain to Gallipoli, called Ximelech, and asked for a parley and said, if it were our pleasure, he wished to pass into Gallipoli to speak to us. I sent him an armed small boat, and so he came with ten knights who were kinsmen of his, and he came before En Rocafort and En Ferran Ximeno and myself. He said he was ready to pass over to us with his company and with his wife and children; that he would render oath and homage to us; that he would be as a brother to us, he and all his company; that he would support us against all the peoples of the world, and they would put their wives and children under our power; and that they wished to be, in all and for all, under our command like the least of the Company; and that they would give us the fifth of all they would gain.

Of this we had advice and counsel of all the Company, and all thought it well that we should receive them. And we received this Ximelech, who passed over to us with eight hundred horse and two thousand foot, and if ever people were obedient to a lord, they were to us; if ever men were loyal and true, they were to us always, and they were very expert men of arms and experienced in all affairs.

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So they stayed with us like brothers, and they always remained near us, forming a host by themselves.

And other Turks also came to us and put themselves under our power with their wives and children, and they likewise were always loyal and obedient to us. And so we had increased by eighteen hundred Turkish horsemen, and had killed and taken away from the Emperor all the soldiers he had.

Now I must speak to you of En Berenguer de Entenza, whom the Genoese took with them to Genoa. In the end the Lord King of Aragon took him out of prison; and he returned to Catalonia and sold a great portion of his lands and hired a ship. He put in it, between men of birth and others, full five hundred good men and went to Romania.

When he came to Gallipoli I received him very splendidly, as one whom I should consider as my captain and chief. But En Rocafort would not accept him as captain and chief; rather he thought he, himself, was and ought to be captain. So this strife was great between the two; however, I and our twelve counsellors of the host pacified them.

But En Rocafort, being very expert, so attracted the almugavars that they all looked up to him. The Turks and Turcoples did so also, because they had come at a time when En Rocafort was the greatest and the most accomplished knight of the host; thenceforward they acknowledged no other lord. In order to negotiate peace and concord between them, I suffered much toil and trouble and

THE SIEGE OF NONA

many dangers, because I had to go from one to the other, and always had to pass by castles of the enemy on our borders.

En Rocafort, with the Turks and the greater part of the almugavars, went to besiege the city of Nona, which was sixty miles from Gallipoli; and En Berenguer de Entenza went to besiege a castle between Gallipoli and the place besieged by En Rocafort. En Ferran Ximeno, with all the Aragonese who were in the host, and with a part of the Catalan seamen, were with En Berenguer. So each conducted his siege, and each had catapults with which to assail the place he was holding besieged.

Things being thus, there came to Romania the Lord Infante En Ferrando, son of the Lord King of Mallorca, with four galleys. He came with this covenant, that he would take command of the Company and cities and castles and other places as representing the Lord King En Fadrique of Sicily, and not in his own name. I made all who were in Gallipoli accept the Lord Infante as head and chief in the name of the Lord King of Sicily, and I gave up my house to him, and bought fifty horses and pack-mules for him, as many as he needed; all he required for setting out I gave him, tents and harness of all sorts that are required by such a lord on a march. And I at once sent two men on horseback to En Berenguer de Entenza, and to others and to En Rocafort, and also to En Ferran Ximeno, who was at his castle of Maditos.

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En Berenguer raised the siege and came to Gallipoli and at once accepted the Lord Infante, he and all who were with him, as chief and lord for the Lord King of Sicily. And so likewise came En Ferran Ximeno with all his company, and accepted the Lord Infante in the same manner, and we were all obedient to the command of the Lord King of Sicily, and we all had great cheer and content and held our cause to be won. The Lord Infante was one of the four principal knights of the world and the wisest. For many reasons he was a lord who suited us very well.

CHAPTER XXXIII

HOW THE COMPANY TOOK THE OATH TO THE LORD INFANTE
AND HOW EN ROCAFORT WOULD NOT ACCEPT HIM AS REPRESENTING THE LORD KING OF SICILY.

WHEN we had all taken the oath to the Lord Infante we had a message from En Rocafort that he could not raise his siege, but that he entreated the Lord Infante to go there; that all the Company had great joy at his arrival. The Lord Infante held a council upon this, and we all advised him to go, and told him we would follow him, except En Berenguer and En Ferran Ximeno, because they were both on bad terms with En Rocafort. As soon as the Lord Infante had arranged everything with En Rocafort and his company, they would go to him.

So the Lord Infante, with me and with all the company that was at Gallipoli, except a few who remained with those two nobles, went to where En Rocafort was conducting his siege, and they received him with great honours, and with the great content and cheerfulness they all felt.

But En Rocafort, who knew the covenant between the Lord King of Sicily and the Lord Infante, thought of his own advantage and not of the common good. He thought thus:

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

“ If this lord remains here as lord and chief, thou art lost, for En Berenguer de Entenza and En Ferran Ximeno have accepted him before thou didst, and both are nobles, and the Infante will always show them more honour than to thee, as well in council as in all other affairs. They have mortal hatred against thee, and so they will do thee all the evil they can with him. Thou art to-day chief and lord of this host; thou hast the greater part of the Franks, horse and foot, and of those who are in Romania. Besides, thou hast the Turks and Turcoples, who here acknowledge no other lord but thee. When thou art lord, how canst thou return to be nothing? Thou must take measures that this lord does not remain here, but thou wilt have to do it with great dexterity, for the people are full of joy at his arrival and want him as head and chief. Thou hast only one way, that, with a good semblance, thou yet arrange in such wise that he does not tarry here.”

You will see what means he took; I never believed there was a man who would take a resolution so covertly as he did. The Lord Infante, trusting him greatly, told him all his purpose and bid him assemble a general council, for he wished to give the Company the letters that he was bringing from the Lord King of Sicily. En Rocafort said that he would assemble a general council on the following day; but, in the meanwhile, he assembled privately all the heads of the companies, as well horse as foot, and said to them:

ASSEMBLING A COUNCIL

“Notables, the Lord Infante wishes us to assemble a council to-morrow, for he wishes to give you the letters he brings from the Lord King of Sicily, and he wishes to tell you by word of mouth why he has come. You will listen to him courteously, and when he has spoken none shall answer him. But I shall answer him that you have heard the letters and his good words, and that he should return to his lodging, and we shall hold our council upon what he has put before us.”

And so the Lord Infante and all came to the council, and he gave his letters and spoke good and wise words to the Company; and they answered what En Rocafort had ordained—namely, that they would defer their agreement. The Lord Infante returned to his lodging and the council remained in the square. En Rocafort said:

“Barons, this matter must not be managed by all. Let us elect fifty worthy men, who shall settle this answer, and, when they have settled it, we shall tell it you all, to ask if it seems good to you.”

All held what En Rocafort had said for good, so that, before they left the square, the fifty were elected, and they took an oath of secrecy. When they had done this En Rocafort said to them:

“Barons, there is no one in the world who would be so much to us as this Lord Infante Ferrando. He is of the most accomplished knights of the world, and of those who most love truth and justice. Wherefore I should advise you that we accept him as our lord, out and out. But he has told us that

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

we should accept him as representative of the King of Sicily; but that we shall not do on any account. It is much better for us that he be our lord than the Lord King of Sicily, for he has neither land nor dominion, wherefore he will always be with us. As to the King of Sicily, you know what guerdon he has given us for the service we have done him. As soon as peace was concluded, he cast us out of Sicily with a quintal of bread for each man. Therefore let us answer the Lord Infante clearly that we shall, on no account, accept him as from King Fadrique, but that we are prepared to accept him for himself, and that we hold ourselves much honoured, and are prepared to render oath and homage to him. And so we shall let the King of Sicily know that we remember what he did when he had obtained peace."

In the end all said he had spoken well; but En Rocafort knew well that the covenant between the Lord Infante and King Fadrique was so binding that the Infante could, on no account, accept the sovereignty over any city or castle or anything in this journey for himself.

And so the answer was made to the Lord Infante, and when he saw that they persisted in it, he said to them that they should know for certain that, if they would not accept him as from the Lord King Fadrique, he would return to Sicily. And he wished to take leave; but En Rocafort and all the Company urged him not to part from them until they were in the Kingdom of Salonica and, until

MAKING PEACE

then, they would look upon him as their lord. And likewise they told him of the discord between En Rocafort and En Berenguer de Entenza and En Ferran Ximeno, and begged him to be pleased to mend it. And he answered that he would be pleased to do so.

CHAPTER XXXIV

HOW THE COMPANY DECIDED TO ABANDON GALLIPOLI AND ALL THAT DISTRICT AND HOW A QUARREL AROSE BETWEEN TWO COMPANIES AND HOW EN BERENGUER DE ENTENZA WAS KILLED AND HOW THE LORD INFANTE WENT TO THE ISLAND OF THASOS AND RAMON MUNTANER LEFT THE COMPANY AND JOINED HIM THERE.

NOW we had been in the peninsula of Gallipoli and in that district seven years since the death of the Cæsar, and we had lived five years on the land; there was nothing left, nothing could be gathered there. Therefore we were obliged to abandon that country, and this was the decision of En Rocafort and those who were with him, Christians as well as Turks and Turcoples. And so likewise it was the intention of En Berenguer de Entenza and En Ferran Ximeno and all their men, and mine, too, with those of Gallipoli; but we dared not move for fear of quarrels amongst ourselves. There was nothing else we had to fear.

So the Lord Infante spoke with all, and it was agreed that we should abandon that district together. and that I, with the seamen in twenty-four boats we had—namely, four galleys and the rest armed small boats and armed barges—should take away the women and children, and go by sea, to the city

DELAY

of Cristopol, which is at the entrance to the dominion of Salonica; and that I should demolish and burn the castle of Gallipoli and of Maditos and all the places we held. So I took leave of them and went to Gallipoli and carried out what had been ordained.

When the Infante and all the Company knew that I had demolished and burnt all the places and castles, and that I had left the district in safety, they arranged their departure. The ordering of it, which the Lord Infante made, was this: that En Rocafort and those who were with him, and the Turks and the Turcoples should start one day ahead—namely, where they had lain one night the next the Lord Infante should lie and En Berenguer and En Ferran Ximeno and all their companies, so that all the time they should be at a day's journey distant from each other.

So they went, very well ordered, on short journeys; but when they were within two journeys of Cristopol, the Devil, who does nothing but evil, arranged that the host of En Berenguer should get up earlier, because of the great heat, and the men of En Rocafort only got up in broad daylight, because they had been lying in a plain which was all gardens, and there was every kind of good fruit of the season, and good water and much wine which they found in the houses. And so, being well lodged, they delayed leaving, and the others had been quite the opposite, wherefore they got up early, and the van of the host of the Lord Infante overtook the rear of the host of En Rocafort.

THE BOYS' CHRONICLE OF MUNTANER

When the men of En Rocafort saw them a wicked voice rose amongst them, crying: "To arms! to arms! See the company of En Berenguer de Entenza and En Ferran Ximeno coming to kill us!" The word went from one to the other, as far as the van. En Rocafort had the armour put on the horses, and all got ready and also the Turks and Turcoples.

The noise reached the Lord Infante and En Berenguer and En Ferran Ximeno. En Berenguer quickly mounted his horse, with only a hauberk on, without any armour, with his sword girded on and a hunting spear in his hand, and he proceeded to head off and drive back his men and make them return. Whilst he was thus rallying them as well as he could, there came on his horse, fully armed, a younger brother of En Rocafort, and likewise their uncle, En Dalmau Sant-Marti, on his horse and well armed. Together they came towards En Berenguer heading off his men, but they thought he was urging on the company.

Both together rushed at him and En Berenguer cried: "What is this?" But both attacked him and found him unarmed, and thrust their lances right through him, so that, then and there, they slew him. And this was a great wrong and a great loss, that they, when he was acting rightly, killed him. When they had killed him, they went to look for the others, and especially for En Ferran Ximeno.

En Ferran, also an expert and wise knight, came out at the noise without any armour, and mounted his horse, and was heading off the men. When he

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saw that the men of En Rocafort had killed En Berenguer, and that the Turks and Turcoples were with them and did what they commanded, and that every man would be killed, he fled with about thirty horsemen to a castle of the Emperor. See into what danger he had to put himself, being obliged to take refuge with his enemies, who received him willingly when they saw the fight.

Thus killing and wounding, the followers of En Rocafort came as far as where the banner of the Lord Infante and his company were. So the Lord Infante came armed, on his horse, mace in hand, and rallied the men as well as he could, and, as soon as En Rocafort and his company saw him, they surrounded him, so that no one could do him any hurt, neither the Turks nor the Turcoples.

As soon as the Lord Infante was with them the fighting ceased; nevertheless, it did not cease so completely that, throughout that day, they did not kill some of our men—namely, of the company of En Berenguer and En Ferran Ximeno, over a hundred and fifty horsemen and full five hundred afoot.

When the Lord Infante came to the place where En Berenguer de Entenza was lying dead, he dismounted and began a great mourning, and kissed him more than ten times, and all that were in the host did the same, and En Rocafort also showed himself greatly displeased at it, and wept over him, as also his brother and his uncle, who had killed him.

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When the Lord Infante upbraided them, they excused themselves, saying they did not recognize him. They did wrongly, and it was a great sin to kill this noble and all the others.

The Lord Infante made all the host tarry in that place three days, and in a church near by, dedicated to Saint Nicholas, they buried the body of the said En Berenguer de Entenza, and had masses sung, and they put him in a fine tomb near the altar.

When this was done the Lord Infante heard that En Ferran Ximeno was in that castle, with those who had gone away with him, and with full seventy others who had gone there afterwards, so that altogether he was in the castle with a hundred men, good men of the host. The Infante sent to bid him return, and he sent to beg the Infante to excuse him, as it was not in his power to return, as indeed it was not. As he had come to the castle he had to appear before the Emperor, with all his company. And so the Lord Infante held him excused, him and all who were with him.

And things being thus, the Lord Infante had a council assembled, and asked them what decision they had come to; if they had decided to receive him as representing the Lord King of Sicily, he would tarry with them; if not, he would not remain. En Rocafort, who considered himself a greater man since En Berenguer de Entenza was dead and En Ferran Ximeno had fled, made the Company keep to the resolution on no account to accept the



They buried the body of the said En Berenguer.

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Lord Infante as representative of the Lord King of Sicily, but only for himself.

So the Lord Infante took leave of them and embarked and came to an island called Thasos, which is six miles distant from that place. And I came to that island on the same day with all my company, by chance, for I had no news whatever of the host. I found there the Lord Infante, who rejoiced much at seeing me, and told me all that had happened, at which I and all those who were with me were much grieved and displeased. The Lord Infante requested me, in the name of the Lord King of Sicily and in his own, not to separate from him. I told him that I was ready to do all he commanded, holding him to be my lord; but I begged him to await me in the island of Thasos, and I, with all the people I had brought from Gallipoli, would go to the Company. And he said he was content.

I went at once, with thirty-six sail, to the Company, which I found one journey distant from Cristopol. When I came to them, before going on shore, I made them assure the safety of all the men, women, and children, and of all there was there belonging to En Berenguer de Entenza, and his company, and also to En Ferran Ximeno. Then I went on shore, and all those who wished to go to where En Ferran Ximeno was, went, and I had them accompanied by a hundred Turkish horsemen, and had carts lent them to carry their goods. And those who wished to remain with the host

I GIVE UP THE SEAL

remained; and to those who did not wish to remain I gave barges to take them safely to Negroponte.

When I had done all this, for which I had detained the host three days, I had a general council assembled, and reproved them for all that had happened, and reminded them of all they owed to that noble whom they had killed, and likewise to En Ferran Ximeno. In the presence of all I gave up to them the seal of the Community which I had and all the books, and left them the clerk and took leave of all. They begged me not to part from them, especially the Turks and Turcoples, who came to me weeping, begging me not to forsake them, for they looked upon me as upon a father; and in truth they never called me anything else than *cata*, which, in Turkish, means father.

Indeed, I was more sorry about them than about anyone else, for they had put themselves under my command, and always trusted me more than any other man in the Christian host. But I told them that I could on no account remain, that I could not fail the Lord Infante, who was my lord. In the end I took leave of all, and, with an armed boat of sixty oars I had and two armed barges, I parted from them and came to Thasos, where I found the Lord Infante awaiting me.

When I had parted from the Company they went over the pass of Cristopol with much trouble, and then, by daily journeys, they went to a peninsula called Cassandra, distant five hundred and twenty miles from the city of Salonica. At the

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entrance to that peninsula they pitched their tents and from there raided as far as the city of Salonica, and all that country which they found new country. And they consumed that district, as they had done those of Gallipoli, Constantinople, and Adrianople.

CHAPTER XXXV

HOW THE LORD INFANTE LEFT THASOS BY SEA AND HOW THE FRENCH ADMIRAL MICER THIBAUT DE CHÉPOI TREACHEROUSLY TOOK THE LORD INFANTE PRISONER AND HOW EN ROCAFORT TOOK THE OATH TO MICER CHARLES OF FRANCE AND MADE THE COMPANY SWEAR FEALTY TO HIM.

I DEPARTED from the island of Thasos with the Lord Infante, and he had the best galley after his own given up to me. With his four galleys and my armed small boat and a barge of mine, we set our course for the port of Almyros, which is in the Duchy of Athens. The Lord Infante had left four men there to make biscuits for the galleys, but the people of the country plundered all. But, if they did plunder, a fine revenge we took for it, for all that was there we gave up to fire and flame. Then we departed from Almyros and we went to the island of Spoll, and there we attacked the castle and devastated all that island, and then we went to the island of Negroponte.

The Lord Infante said he wished to pass through the city of Negroponte, but we all told him on no account to do so. It is true that he had passed through it on entering Romania, and he and his company had been well received. He thought they would do the same now, and so, in spite of us all, he persisted that he would go. In an evil hour

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we took that direction, and, with our eyes open, put the rope round our necks. Wherefore it is very perilous to go with the young sons of kings; they are of such high birth that they think no one would do them harm; and, also, they are lords whom no one dares to oppose in anything they wish to undertake. Wherefore it happened to us that we had to consent to our own destruction. We went to the city of Negroponte, and we found that ten Venetian galleys and an armed small boat had arrived. They were sailing for Micer Charles of France, who claimed the Empire of Constantinople, and they were searching for the Company.

There was there, on the side of Micer Charles, a French noble called Micer Thibaut de Chépoi. The Lord Infante made them give safe-conducts to him and all his company, and the lords of Negroponte gave us safe-conducts, and so did the captains of the Venetian galleys. They invited the Lord Infante to a banquet, and when he was on shore the Venetian galleys came against ours and especially against mine, for there was a rumour that I was bringing the greatest treasure of the world from Romania.

At the assault they made they killed over forty men, and they would have killed me if I had been there, but I did not depart one step from the Lord Infante. So they plundered my galley and all there was there, which was a great deal, and then they took the Lord Infante and ten of the best men who were with him.

THE TREASURE OF THE COMPANY

When they had done this treacherous deed Micer Thibaut de Chépoi delivered over the Lord Infante to Micer Juan de Misi, lord of a third of Negroponte, in order that he should take him to the Duke of Athens, for the Duke to guard him for Micer Charles, to do what Micer Charles would command. They took him with eight knights and four squires to the city of Thebes, and the Duke had him put into the castle called Saint Omer, and had him closely guarded.

Some men of Negroponte gave Micer Thibaut de Chépoi to understand that, if he wished to obtain anything from the Company, he should take me back to it, for I had carried off a great part of the treasure of the Company. So he would do two good things; he would please the Company, and, besides, they knew the men would kill me at once, because of the treasure I had taken, and then there would be no one to claim what he and his company had taken from me. And also, he should take back En Garcia Palasin, whom En Rocafort hated more than any man on earth, and thus he would please En Rocafort greatly.

As he was advised so he did; he sent back En Garcia Palasin and me to the Company, and when the galley came to the Company the commander at once presented En Garcia to En Rocafort, who had great pleasure thereat. He went at once to the stern of the galley, and as soon as Garcia landed, without other sentence, in the presence of all, En Rocafort ordered his head to be cut off, which

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was a great loss and hurt, for, indeed, he was of the most accomplished knights of the world in all matters.

When they had done this they brought me on shore, and when the Company saw me En Rocafort and the others all came to kiss and embrace me, and they all began to weep over what I had lost. All the Turks and Turcoples dismounted and wanted to kiss my hand, and began to weep for joy, thinking I wished to remain with them. En Rocafort and all who accompanied me took me to the finest house which was there and had it at once given up to me, and when I was in the house the Turks sent me twenty horses and a thousand gold hyperpers, and the Turcoples the same. En Rocafort sent me a valuable horse and a mule and twelve hundred bushels of oats, and a hundred quintals of flour, and salt meat, and cattle of one sort and another. And, also, there was no leader nor commander nor man worth anything who did not send me a present, so that altogether it was estimated that what they sent me within three days was worth four thousand gold hyperpers. En Thibaut de Chépoi and the Venetians held themselves much mistaken in having brought me back.

When this was done En Thibaut de Chépoi and the captains of the galleys entered into parley with the Company about their affairs. The first thing they had to do was to promise the Company to give me satisfaction for the damage they had done me, and this they had to swear. The Company told

THIBAUT'S POWER

them that I had been their father and governor since they had departed from Sicily, and that no evil could arise amongst them whilst I was with them. If I had been with them, that evil would not have been done, the killing of En Berenguer de Entenza and the others.

This was the first clause they made them promise and swear, but they kept their oath badly, wherefore God gave them no success in any affairs, as you shall hear further on.

En Rocafort, seeing he had lost the favour of the House of Sicily and Aragon and Mallorca, and also of all Catalonia, approached Micer Charles of France, and took the oath and made all the Company swear fealty to Micer Charles as their sovereign. This proved to his disadvantage and theirs. When they had sworn and done homage to En Thibaut de Chépoi for Micer Charles, they took the oath to the said Micer Thibaut as commander. He exercised his authority with great urbanity, for he saw he could not do otherwise.

When they had taken the oath En Thibaut imagined that no one but he would dare to command, but En Rocafort consulted him less than a dog; rather, he had a seal made with the figure of a knight and a crown of gold; for he intended to be crowned King of Salonica. En Thibaut was commander of nothing but the air. The captains of the Venetian galleys thought they had attained what they had come for, as En Thibaut had been made commander of the Company. They took

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leave and wished to return. The Company and the Turks and the Turcoples, and also En Thibaut, begged me to remain, but I said I would not do so on any account, and when they saw they could not alter this they summoned the captains of the galleys and recommended me to them warmly. I gave all the horses and pack-mules and carts to those who had been of my company, and took leave of all, and embarked in the galley of Micer Juan Tari.

CHAPTER XXXVI

HOW RAMON MUNTANER WENT TO ATHENS AND SAW THE LORD INFANTE IN PRISON AND HOW EN ROCAFORT RULED THE COMPANY WITH SUCH INSOLENCIE THAT THEY DELIVERED HIM UP TO EN THIBAUT DE CHÉPOI WHO TOOK HIM TO NAPLES AND HOW KING ROBERT LET HIM DIE OF HUNGER IN THE CASTLE OF AVERSA.

WE came to the city of Negroponte, and when we were in the city the captains told the bailie of Venice to have it cried that every man who had anything of mine should return it to me under penalty of loss of life and property, and others had this cried likewise. They were most willing to satisfy me with empty air, but of the goods I could recover nothing. I begged Micer Juan Tari to be pleased to let me go to the city of Thebes to the Lord Infante. He said that, for love of me, he would wait for me four days, for which I was very grateful to him.

I took five riding beasts and went to the city of Thebes, which is distant twenty-four miles. I found the Duke of Athens ill; but, ill as he was, he received me and told me he was much displeased at the hurt I had received and that he offered his services to me; that in all I saw he could help me, he would do so. I gave him many thanks and told him that the greatest pleasure he could do me was

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to show all honour to the Lord Infante. He answered that he held himself very bound to do that, and that he was greatly displeased at having had to serve the Venetians in such a case.

I begged him to be pleased to let me see the Lord Infante, and he said yes, I might see him and stay with him, and that, in my honour, whilst I was there, anyone might go in and dine with him; and again, if he wished to ride, let him ride. And at once he had the gates of the castle of Saint Omer, where the Lord Infante was, opened, and I went to see him; and do not ask me if I grieved when I saw him in the power of others. I thought my heart would burst, but he, in his kindness, consoled me. I stayed two days with him and begged him to be pleased to allow that I seek permission to remain with him from the Duke of Athens. But he said it was not necessary that I should remain, rather it was opportune that I should go to Sicily, and he would give me a letter to accredit me with the Lord King of Sicily, and that he did not wish to write to anyone else.

Then, when I had stayed two days, I took leave of him with great grief. I left him a part of the few coins I was carrying, and also I took off some garments I was wearing and gave them to the cook the Duke had assigned to the Lord Infante, and spoke privately with him, and told him to look to it not to allow anything that could injure him to be put in his food; that, if he guarded against it, he would derive much good for it from me and

EN RIBALTA

others. He laid his hands on the Gospels and swore to me that he would sooner let his head be cut off than suffer any harm to come to the Lord Infante through eating what he had prepared for him. So I parted from him and took leave of the Lord Infante and his retinue, and I went to take leave of the Duke, and, of his mercy, he gave me some of his rich and valuable jewels.

I departed pleased with him, and returned to Negroponte, where I found the galleys which were only waiting for me. We went to the island of Sapienza, and when morning came we looked and saw four galleys and a small boat come the way we had come; we left our post and steered for them. I thought at once they were the galleys of En Riambaldo Desfar, of whom I had already had news, and I told our captain. In a little while an armed small boat came along, and I recognized En Ribalta in the stern, and he came to me on board the galley and told me the galleys were those of En Riambaldo Desfar. But the Venetian captains took me aside and asked me to tell them about that knight, whether he was a wicked man, and whether he had done any harm to Venetians. I told them that, assuredly, he was a worthy man, and one who would on no account do harm to any man who is a friend of the Lord King of Aragon. Rather, I begged them that they love and honour him whilst we were together. So they asked me to assure the others of their safety, in their name, and to tell them they were welcome. So I went on

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board the small boat with En Ribalta and went to En Riambaldo Desfar, and then together we went to the other galleys and there greeted each other.

After this, next morning, we went to Clarenza, and at Clarenza the Venetian galleys had to tarry to ordain four galleys they had to leave there on guard. So I, with En Riambaldo, moved into a galley he had assigned to me and my company, and Micer Juan Tari, captain of the Venetians, gave me two casks of wine and plenty of biscuits and salt meat, and of all he had for his company, and I had what I wanted bought in Clarenza.

So I took leave of the Venetians and, with En Riambaldo, we went to Corfu, and then sailed along the coast of Calabria and came to Messina. At Messina En Riambaldo disarmed, and he and I went to the Lord King, whom we found at Castelnuevo. The Lord King received En Riambaldo well and gave him presents, and then En Riambaldo went away, and I remained and gave the Lord King the letter of the Lord Infante and told him all the message. The Lord King was greatly displeased at the imprisonment of the Lord Infante, and at once sent a messenger to tell the Lord King of Mallorca and the Lord King of Aragon of it.

Meanwhile a message came to the Duke of Athens from Micer Charles, bidding him send the Lord Infante to King Robert of Naples. He sent him to Brindisi, and from Brindisi he went by land to Naples, and there he remained in honourable cap-

EN ROCAFORT REBUKED

tivity. He was guarded, but he rode with King Robert and dined with him, and with my Lady the Queen, who was his sister. He remained in captivity over a year, and then the Lord King of Mallorca, his father, obtained from the King of France that he sent him to him; and so King Robert sent him to the Lord King his father, and all throughout the territories of the Lord King of Mallorca made a great feast, because they loved him more than any other child of the King.

When En Rocafort had had the seal made he so ruled over the Company that they considered En Thibaut de Chépoi less than a sergeant. He was very grieved by it, and considered himself greatly insulted.

En Rocafort so degraded himself by his conduct that the Company did not know what to do. In the end all the heads of companies went secretly to En Thibaut and asked him to advise them about En Rocafort, for they could not endure him, and he answered that he could give them no advice, for En Rocafort was lord; but if they would act well, let them think over what they had better do, and he would think it over also on his part. He said all this because he thought they wished to betray and deceive him. He went to En Rocafort and, taking him on one side, reproved him, and he did not take it at all in good part.

En Thibaut had sent his son to Venice to equip six galleys, and these he was awaiting. They came shortly with his son, who was captain thereof.

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When the galleys had come he held himself for safe, and sent secretly to all the chiefs of the companies and asked them what they thought of En Rocafort. They answered they thought it would be well that Micer Thibaut should have a general council cried, and that, when they were assembled in council, they would tell all En Rocafort had done to them, and they would seize him and deliver him up.

And so it was done to their misfortune. On the following day, when they were in council, they asked En Rocafort for explanations, and, upon his explanation, they seized him and delivered him up to En Thibaut. In thus delivering him up they caused the greatest misfortune to themselves men ever did cause. It would have been better had they themselves taken vengeance on him, if their hearts were set on it.

When Micer Thibaut had En Berenguer de Rocafort and En Esberto, his brother, the chiefs of the companies ran to the house and coffers of En Rocafort, and found so many gold hyperpers that each man's share was thirteen hyperpers; and they plundered all he had. En Thibaut embarked one night all secretly in the Venetian galleys and put En Rocafort and his brother on board, and at once made the crews row hard, and left the Company without taking leave of anyone.

In the morning, when the Company did not find En Thibaut, and saw that he had gone away and had taken En Rocafort with him, they were very



He put the two brothers into a vault and there he let them die of hunger.

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grieved, and they repented of what they had done. A tumult arose amongst them, and they seized their arms and killed with their lances fourteen chiefs of companies who had agreed to that affair. Then they elected two horsemen and a guide and a captain of the almugavars to govern them until they had a chief, and so these four were governors of the host, with the advice of the twelve.

En Thibaut de Chépoi went as far as Naples and delivered up En Rocafort and his brother to King Robert, who hated them more than anyone in the world, because of the castles in Calabria which they had not surrendered as others had done. He sent them to the castle at Aversa, and he put the two brothers into a vault and there he let them die of hunger; after they had entered no inan ever gave them to eat or drink. So you can see that the evil a man does never leaves him, and that the higher a man is in rank, the more forbearing and upright he should be.

CHAPTER XXXVII

HOW THE DUKE OF ATHENS SENT FOR THE COMPANY AND HOW THEY FOUGHT HIS ENEMIES SO WELL THAT THEY MADE PEACE WITH HIM AND HOW THE DUKE REFUSED TO PAY THE COMPANY AND COLLECTED A FORCE TO DESTROY IT AND HOW A GREAT BATTLE WAS FOUGHT AND THE DUKE WAS DEFEATED AND HOW THE COMPANY SETTLED IN THE DUCHY AND EN BERENGUER ESTANYOL GOVERNED THE COMPANY AND THE DUCHY FOR A LONG TIME.

IT happened at that time that the Duke of Athens died of illness; he had neither son nor daughter, and he left the Duchy to the Count of Brienne, who was his cousin-german. The Count of Brienne had been nurtured for a long time in Sicily, at the castle of Agosta, when he was a boy. His father, who had been a prisoner there, had put him there as a hostage, and he came out of prison for a ransom. He had made himself beloved by the Catalans and spoke Catalan.

When he came to the Duchy of Athens the Despot of Artá defied him, and Angelo, Lord of Vlachia, did likewise, and also the Emperor, so that, on all sides, they gave him enough to do. He sent his messengers to the Company, and promised to give them good pay for six months if they came to help him, and also, afterwards, to keep them at that good pay. Of this they made a covenant, with letters confirmed by oath on both sides; and upon

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this the Company departed from Cassandra and came to the Morea, after great trouble they suffered in passing through Vlachia, which is the most rugged country in the world.

The Count of Brienne received them well, and at once gave them pay for two months. They began to march against the enemies of the count, and in a short time they had laid waste all the frontiers of his enemies. All were glad to make peace with him. He recovered over thirty castles which had been taken from him, and was put in a very honourable position towards the Emperor and towards Angelo the Despot. And this was done within six months, and he had not given pay for more than two. When he saw he was at peace with all his neighbours, he conceived a very wicked plan—namely, the destruction of the Company.

He chose about two hundred horsemen of the host, of the best that were in it, and about three hundred afoot, and these he made his Company, and enfranchised them and gave them land and properties. When he had made sure of them he commanded the Company to leave his Duchy. They told him to pay them for the time they had served him, but he told them he would set up gallows for them, and, meanwhile, he had summoned full seven hundred French knights, some from the territory of King Robert, some from the Principality of Morea, some from all that country. When he had collected them he collected full twenty-four thousand men afoot, Greeks from the

THE FRENCH ATTACK

Duchy. And then, with them formed into a host, he marched against the Company.

They of the Company who knew this issued forth with their wives and children to a beautiful plain near Thebes. In that place there was a marsh, and of that marsh the Company made a shield for themselves. When the two hundred Catalan horsemen and three hundred men afoot of the Count of Brienne saw that things were getting serious, they went all together to the count, and said to him: "Lord, our brothers are here whom we see you wish us to destroy, which is a great sin; therefore we tell you that we wish to go and die with them. And so we defy you and take our discharge from you." And the count told them to go, and bad luck go with them, that it was well that they should die with the others.

So they, all together, went to join the Company, and all proceeded to form in battle array. The Turks and Turcoples all assembled in one place; they did not wish to join the Company, thinking it was done by an agreement between the two sides, in order to destroy them; so they wished to be all collected together and watch.

The count advanced against the Company in battle array, with two hundred French knights, all with gold spurs, and with many others of the country, and with men afoot. He put himself in the van with his banner and proceeded to attack the Company, and they of the Company went to attack him. The horses of the count, at the noise

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the almugavars made, turned towards the marsh, and there the count and the banner fell, and all those who were in the van. The Turks and Turcoples, who saw that things were getting serious, proceeded to attack and fall upon them.

The battle was very hard, and of all the seven hundred knights only two escaped; all the others died, the count and all the other barons of the Principality of the Morea who had come to destroy the Company. Of those two, one was Micer Bonifazio da Verona, lord of the third part of Negroponte, who was a very honourable, good man and had always loved the Company. They saved him as soon as they recognized him. The other was Micer Roger Deslaur, a knight, who had often come to the Company as a messenger. All the horsemen of the country who were there died, and of men afoot there died more than twenty thousand. So the Company had won the battle and all the Duchy of Athens.

As soon as they had collected the booty they begged Micer Bonifazio da Verona to be their commander, but he would not accept the office on any account. So they made Micer Roger Deslaur captain, and gave him to wife, with the castle of Salona, her who had been the wife of the Lord of Salona. And they divided amongst themselves the city of Thebes and all the towns and castles of the Duchy, and gave the ladies as wives to the men of the Company, to each according to his importance. To some they gave so distinguished

THE RETURN TO GALLIPOLI

a lady that he was not worthy to hand her her bowl to wash her hands.

The Turks and Turcoples, who saw that henceforth the Company had no intention of leaving the Duchy of Athens and had conquered it all, said they wished to leave. The Catalans told them that they would give them three or four places, or more, of the Duchy, wherever they wished; but they said they would not remain on any account; that they were all rich and wished to return to the Kingdom of Anatolia to their friends. So they separated in great love and concord towards each other, and proffered help to each other if it were needed.

They returned safely to Gallipoli by short journeys, pillaging and burning all they met; they had no fear that any man would resist them, in such a state had the Catalans left the Empire. When they were at Boca Daner there came to them ten Genoese galleys, by arrangement of the Emperor, and the commander told them he would set them across the arm of the sea, which is not more than four miles wide at that place. So they made an agreement with the Genoese, who swore on the Holy Gospels that they would take them safely across.

They first took across, in one journey, all the lesser people that were there, and when the notables saw that they had taken those people across safely, they went on board the galleys, and, as they went on board, the Genoese took away all their arms. Such was the agreement, that the Turks should

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deliver up all their arms to the Genoese, and the Genoese were to put them all into one galley.

Then, when the Turks were collected in the galleys and were without arms, the mariners threw themselves upon them and killed full half of them, and the rest they put below. So they captured the greater part of those who were of importance and took them with them to Genoa, and went along selling them in Apulia and in Calabria and in Naples and everywhere. Of those who had remained about Gallipoli, not one escaped; the Emperor had sent many of his men from Constantinople, who killed them all. See to what end the Turks came, and how much it was to their misfortune that they separated from the Company.

When the Catalans saw themselves settled in the Duchy of Athens and lords of the country, they sent their messengers to Sicily, to the Lord King, to say that, if it pleased him to send one of his sons, they would take the oath to him as their lord, and would deliver up to him all the fortresses they possessed. They saw clearly that it was not well for them to be without a lord. And the Lord King of Sicily held a council, and decided to give them as their lord his second son—namely, the Infante Manfredo. They were content, but he told them that the Infante was still so young that it was not yet time to send him to them, but that they should take the oath to him, and that a knight would go, instead of the Infante, to be there in his place.

EN BERENGUER ESTANYOL

This the messengers granted, and took the oath to the Infante Manfredo in the name of all the Company. And the Lord King chose a knight, called En Berenguer Estanyol, to go with them to be commander of the host and to take the oath of homage of all, and the Lord King sent the messengers back in five galleys. When they came to the Company all were very well pleased at what they had done, and with En Berenguer Estanyol, who came to be their commander and lord in the name of the Infante Manfredo.

So En Berenguer Estanyol governed the host a long time very well and very wisely, as one who was an accomplished knight; and he did many feats of arms, which the Company undertook. Thus he had to fight against great power—namely, on the Marches—and against castles and places of the Emperor's; and so likewise on the Marches of Angelo, Lord of Vlachia; and besides, on the Marches of the Despotate of Arta; and besides, against the Prince of Morea. En Berenguer arranged in such manner that they always waged one war and meanwhile made truces with their other enemies; and then, when they had despoiled that country with which they were at war, they made a covenant with them and made war on the others. And this life they lead still; they could not live without war. “

THE END.

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